



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

May 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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May 2004 Meeting Program

Multi-Agency Radio Communications System MARCS

Tuesday, May 25th

Presented by Darryl Anderson



Multi-Agency Radio Communication System

At LEARA's May general meeting, speaker Darryl Anderson will educate us about MARCS, a statewide radio system that will give the agencies that subscribe to it the ability to have contiguous communications throughout the state of Ohio. After the Shadyside flood disaster in 1989, State of Ohio

realized back in 1990 there were serious problems with the communications systems utilized by their public safety and service

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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

President	Bob Winston, W2THU 216-771-3314 w2thu@leara.org
Vice-President, Net Manager	Eric Jessen, N8AUC 440-734-3146 n8auc@leara.org
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Newsletter Staff	editor@leara.org
LEARA Web Site	www.leara.org

de W2THU . . .



You may have noticed that there has been a vacancy on the Board of Trustees for several months, which has now been filled with the appointment of Tom Bishop W8TAB. Tom brings a strong work ethic and business skills to our Association. We now have a full complement of 15 trustees as required by the club bylaws. Welcome to the Board, Tom!

A few months ago I was fortunate to attend the only American exhibition of the French painter Paul Gauguin at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. I was exposed to the French Impressionist painters in my 9th grade French class because Madame Guerin had a passion for this genre and I remember well that Gauguin was known for his paintings of Tahiti. The centerpiece of the exhibit was Gauguin's self proclaimed masterpiece entitled "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?"

Although I don't normally wax philosophical, this title also applies to our own LEARA. We know where LEARA came from and what sort of club we are, but where are we going? A few columns ago I asked for your suggestions as to how we can improve our Association. No one responded. So, at the May Board meeting we tossed around an agenda item called "How Can We

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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

Welcome to LEARA

de The Editor

Please join us in welcoming the following new member to the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association.

Steven Michner, KC8ZIW

If you happen to hear Steve on the air, be sure to say hello and welcome him to amateur radio!

New Newsletter Editor


de The Editor

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the readers of this newsletter for allowing me the privilege of serving as your newsletter editor over that last 5 months in 2004. As past newsletter editors can attest, it is truly a pleasure and pain experience; the results of many hours spent in front of a PC ironing out the format and flow each month creates an irreplaceable sense of pride and accomplishment.

However, sometimes opportunities come along that must be acted upon. In this case, I had the opportunity to take on the role of Cuyahoga County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC). As a result of these new responsibilities, I will, unfortunately, need to pass the newsletter editor 'torch' on to the next person who is ready to take this fine newsletter to it's next level. That person will be LEARA Trustee Alex Manuk, WD8JMM.

Please join me in wishing Alex the best of luck in taking on the responsibility of newsletter editor. I am confident that Alex's talent and creativity will elevate this newsletter to new heights in the realm of amateur radio club newsletters. Please continue to support Alex as you have supported me over that last number of months. Thank You and 73 de KC8OWL

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY ARES
WANTS YOU!**



For more information or to volunteer for the Cuyahoga County Amateur Radio Emergency Service please contact

Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL
Cuyahoga County ARES
Emergency Coordinator
 Kc8owl@yahoo.com

Looking Forward

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

June 26th and 27th:	Field Day Weekend—Meeting will be at Field Day site on Saturday
July 10th	Trustee Meeting
July 27th	Annual Picnic Meeting - Radio Direction Finding
August 31st	Test n' Tune - Homebrew Night

Net Control Operators Needed

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 Eric Jessen, N8AUC for additional information.

April Meeting Recap

By Sara Cechner, KC8KSU

At April's meeting, all were enlightened, and some dumfounded at the same time, about just what this digital signal processing is all about. The basic concept is that if one converts any given analog signal into something a computer can understand (digital 0's and 1's), the signal becomes very easy to manipulate and even improve, if done right. At the same time, it saves memory and overall processing time, making it possible to accomplish otherwise complex, if not impossible, processes like instantaneous play-back of karaoke tunes in a different key. It's just a matter of adding 2 numbers together and then multiplying them.

The trick is in knowing how to perform those mathematical processes to get the desired result. An example of this is the equation for a complex block FIR filter:

$$y(n) = \text{Summation from } k=0 \text{ to } M \text{ of } h(k) * x(n-k)$$

That math part was kind'a mind-boggling for the less technically inclined among us.

To turn an analog signal into a more efficient, digital one requires a technique called sampling, where the

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LEARA News

April Meeting Recap ... Continued

(Continued from page 3)

data from the original signal is only recorded at discrete time points and levels of intensity. Our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Marc Buchner, mentioned some of the things that can go wrong with this technique, like aliasing. Aliasing is where too few samples are taken, so that a signal of one type or frequency can end up being mistaken for an entirely different one, or worse yet, multiple other ones. If one uses the math properly to select the right sample rate for a given process (usually some type of filtering), problems like this can be minimized.

In relating digital signal processing to ham radio, Dr. Buchner discussed issues like why noise filters cause attenuation of a signal, and how to combat it. Simply put, chopping out noise necessarily involves chopping out some of the total signal, so that as your DSP-filtered DX QSO starts sounding clearer, it also sounds softer. DSP can only take you so far in your quest for the perfect signal, so Dr. Buchner suggests that when you're dealing with a lot of noise, you might want to play a bit with backing off the filter and tolerating some noise in order to preserve overall signal strength and copy. He also encouraged owners of equipment with DSP capability to go ahead and play with those other mysterious knobs to find out what each of them does. It's the best way to learn! [The author would like to add that it would be a good idea to mark your starting position so you can end up with a usable radio after you're done fiddling].

Our thinking caps were pretty wilted by the end of the evening, but we came away with great basic knowledge to help us in understanding our upcoming May topic, the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System, which relies heavily on digital technology.

May Meeting ... continued

(Continued from page 1)

agencies, particularly the lack of a communications "bridge" between safety agencies. MARCS was developed to bridge that gap.

Mr. Anderson, MARCS Program Manager, will detail how MARCS provides the ability for better interoperability at a reduction in individual operational costs. Because the State is deploying the technology without profit, with subscribers buying in at cost in a rotary fashion (cost distributed according to the total number of subscribers), this frees public safety and service providers from putting dollars to develop individual infrastructures, and enables them to buy more and better-developed devices than they otherwise could and concentrate instead on providing their core services. Furthermore, with the participation of contractors such as Northrop Grumman Information Technology, communications overall will be updated using newer technology such as digital systems to improve statewide emergency response.

Come find out more about how this wonderful system will work!

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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.

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Suite 217 fax (216)468-2109
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Check It Out!

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

New Cuyahoga County ARES Emergency Coordinator Appointed

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

As many may be aware, Joe Molter, N8IDA has lead the Cuyahoga County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for a number of years, directing volunteers and providing an interface between county emergency management officials and amateur radio during events such as airport mass casualty and other similar drills in preparation for the possibility of an actual call up.

Because of increasing commitments outside of amateur radio, Joe was no longer able to provide the Cuyahoga County ARES organization with the time and attention he desired to, and decided to pass the responsibilities on to the next willing volunteer. It is with this communication that I am happy to announce my appointment as the new Cuyahoga County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Emergency Coordinator.

The ARRL defines the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as follows: "The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve."

Similar to the definition above is the approach I would like to take with planning, developing, staffing, and maintaining a strong ARES organization in Cuyahoga County. ARES is not something that a single club or entity can own or preside over; but rather, ARES is something that should gain its momentum from the input, ideas, and strengths of each of its members working together, regardless of club affiliation or preference.

A lot of planning, development, verification, training, and implementation work lies ahead. The process will require a number of small, incremental steps toward a common goal and will also require a strong team of volunteers dedicated to providing communication assistance at times of need, as directed by local emergency management professionals. As the framework for the county ARES unfolds, additional Assistant Emergency Coordinators, as well as other functional leaders, will be needed.

Anyone wishing more information or would like to express interest in participating in the organization, please contact me via e-mail at kc8owl@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance for your support of this critically important organization.

Wilderness Protocol ... continued

By Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT

Have you ever heard of, "**The Wilderness Protocol**?" No, it's not the latest book by the author of, "The Da Vinci Code." How about **LITZ Signal**? No? These are two things two-meter and other VHF/UHF operators should know about. ARES, RACES and other emergency communicators should aware of these as well.

The Wilderness Protocol is a recommendation or suggestion that those outside of repeater range monitor the standard simplex frequencies at specific times of the day in case others have emergency or priority calls. The primary frequency is 146.52 MHz with 52.525, 223.5, 446.0 and 1294.5 MHz serving as secondary frequencies.

This system was conceived to facilitate communications between hams that were hiking or backpacking in uninhabited areas outside of repeater range. However, The Wilderness Protocol is not just for hikers and backpackers. ***It can and should be used by everyone anywhere repeater coverage is unavailable.***

The Wilderness Protocol recommends that those stations able to do so should monitor the primary frequency (and secondary frequencies, if possible) every three hours starting at 7 am local time, for a period of five minutes, between the hours of 7 am though 7 pm. Using this schedule and starting at 7 am, you would monitor from 7:00 – 7:05 am, 10:00 – 10:05 am, 1:00 – 1:05 pm, 4:00 – 4:05 PM and 7:00 – 7:05 pm.

Additionally, those stations that have sufficient power resources should monitor at the top of every hour or continuously, and not limit monitoring to just the 7 am – 7 pm time frame, if possible. It is also recommended that monitoring start at five minutes BEFORE the hour and continue until five minutes PAST the hour to allow for incorrectly set watches and clocks.

Any Priority or Emergency transmissions should begin with the LiTZ Signal. CQ like calls (to see who may be out there) should not take place until four minutes past the hour to avoid QRM-ing any priority or emergency traffic.

What is a "**LiTZ Signal**?" LiTZ stands for "**LONG TONE ZERO**." (The "i" in LiTZ was added to make it easier to pronounce). It is nothing more than a DTMF (Touch-Tone) Zero sent for five to ten seconds at the beginning of a call or transmission. It is an all call priority alerting system developed to provide mutual assistance signaling on the VHF/UHF bands. It alerts others to the fact that you have an immediate need to communicate with someone, anyone, regarding a

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2004 Cleveland Marathon Recap

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

On Sunday April 25, the 27th annual Cleveland Marathon was held in and around downtown Cleveland. This year's event brought a few changes to the event, including a new route that kept the entire marathon inside the city limits of Cleveland. With the new route also came new challenges in terms of repeater coverage that would provide reliable hand-held communications from Edgewater Park at the west end to all of Martin Luther King Boulevard on the east end, and everything in between.

To help meet these challenges head-on, a team of over forty (40) communications volunteers from various clubs and organizations offered their time, services, and hardware to help ensure the safety of the participants and spectators during this eight-hour event. I would like to sincerely thank everyone that was able to assist with this event; without each and every volunteer's efforts, we could not have pulled it off. Thank You!

I would also like to provide a special thanks to Rufus Kilpatrick, N8VSZ; Jeff Brown, N3OYQ and the Woodchuck Amateur Radio Club; Tom Kimball, KA8BZB; Don Rupanovic, WX8SKY; and Matt Nickoson, KC8NZJ.

Rufus Kilpatrick, N8VSZ solicited the assistance of 13 local Radio Emergency Communications Associated Team (REACT) volunteers who were instrumental in providing the coverage we needed along the valley of MLK between East Boulevard and Gordon Park. The marathon served as a great example of different teams working together to accomplish a single communications objective.

Jeff Brown, N3OYQ provided the use of his multi-receive site 70cm repeater, 442.125 for the event's amateur radio communications network. Also, so that volunteers only having 2meter equipment could also participate, the Woodchuck Amateur Radio Club agreed to allow their 145.310 machine to be linked to the 70cm machine for the event. There was not a single point along the route where solid, reliable hand-held communications were not possible.

Tom, Don, and Matt provided tail-end protection and support to ensure that the last participants were safe from traffic hazards after many of the main roads were re-opened along the route.

Sometimes change can create uncomfortable conditions. Despite the number of things that changed with this event, I, as well as the other coordinators, firmly believe we accomplished our intended goal because of the volunteerism shown by so many people. Thank you to all!

Cleveland Marathon - A look Behind the Net Control Station

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

I wanted to take a minute to try and 'fill in the blanks' regarding some of the activities that took place on the other side of the radio during the Cleveland Marathon. More specifically, I would like to elaborate on why the information provided by the communication volunteers was so important at the net control position during the event. I thought this might be useful for those that may never have had the opportunity or desire to work in the net control area during an event of this scale.

Rescue Squad Staging – Ambulance staging and dispatch was co-located with the amateur radio net control this year to provide more timely and accurate response to incidents that occur on the route. To keep ambulance response times as short as possible, the supervisor for Donald Martins and Sons Ambulance was continuously monitoring the location of the lead participants, the bulk of the participants, and also the tail-end participants, always making sure that at least one ambulance was positioned near by. Without the information provided by the communication volunteers, this would not have been possible.

Bike-Patrol Staging – A number of Athletic Trainers were patrolling the route on bicycles and were equipped with commercial two-way radios to maintain communications with the doctor in-charge. Though the Bike Medics could communicate amongst themselves, they relied on the doctor in charge to coordinate their positions based on the information he was able to get from the net control area regarding lead, middle, and tail-end participants.

Severe Weather – At one point during the event one of the coordinators became concerned over the threat of potential severe weather. In the event that severe weather would prompt an early shut-down of the marathon, it was critically important that we knew the location of groups of runners as soon as possible so that SAG vehicles could be dispatched.

Route Safety – Road closures for the event were coordinated in advance and communicated to the appropriate security personnel. Despite the best efforts of many, there always seems to be some place on the route where vehicle traffic slips in and creates a hazard for the participants. The communications volunteers along the route did a great job of letting us know where the exposures were so we could relay them to the security officer in charge, who then could reassign his team as needed. (In future events it may be a good idea to place a ham with the chief security officer)

There are many other examples I could provide, but I

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Public Service and Emergency Communications

Westlake Soccer Tournament

By Eric Jessen, N8AUC

Volunteers are still needed for the annual Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament. The tournament is over Memorial Day weekend, and this year will be on Saturday and Sunday only **May 29 and 30**. A few games will be played on Friday afternoon, but they are all at the same site, so communications isn't so critical. If you can help, by enjoying the outdoors, watching lots of kids play soccer, and playing a little radio at the same time, please call Eric - N8AUC at 440-734-3146.

2004 Blossom Time Balloon Fest

By Patt McClain, N8RKP

Amateur radio volunteers are needed this Memorial Day weekend, Saturday **May 29th through Monday May 31st** to help with both balloon tracking and vehicle traffic at the 2004 Chagrin Falls Blossom Festival and Balloon Fest.

Anyone wishing more information, or to volunteer, please contact Patt McClain, N8RKP by phone at 440-247-2229 or by e-mail at pattmcc@apk.net.

Airport Mass Casualty Drill

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

On **Sunday August 21st** a Mass Casualty Drill will be conducted at Burke Lakefront Airport. Cuyahoga County ARES will be a part of the incident management process and, as such, a number of amateur radio volunteers are needed to help provide communication support as directed by Incident Command. More information on this opportunity to demonstrate amateur radio's value during times of emergency or disaster will follow as it becomes available. For more information or to volunteer early, please e-mail me at kc8owl@yahoo.com

2004 MS Pedal To The Point

By Jeff Garvas, N8YNR



Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Amateur Radio Volunteers are needed to help provide communications support for the 18th annual Multiple Sclerosis Pedal To The Point on **August 21st**

and 22nd. For more information or to volunteer please contact Jeff Garvas, N8YNR by phone at 216-552-4368 or by e-mail at n8ynr@leara.org

Wilderness Protocol ... continued

(Continued from page 5)

priority or emergency situation or condition. After sending the LiTZ Signal announce by voice who you are, where you are, are what type of assistance is needed.

For example, a DTMF ZERO is sent for ten-seconds and then, "This is KA8VIT. I am east bound on Interstate 480 near the Northfield Road exit. There is a three-car accident with injuries. Traffic is block and rescue is needed. Please respond if you can contact authorities. This is KA8VIT, over."

If your situation does not involve the safety of life or property, try using a general call using voice BEFORE using the LiTZ Signal. Only use the LiTZ Signal when your call goes unanswered or those responding cannot help you.

The table below lists some general guidelines suitable for most repeaters and simplex calling frequencies.

Situation	Waking Hours 0700 - 2200 Local Time	Sleeping Hours 2200 - 0700 Local Time
Calling CQ	No	No
Calling Friend	No	No
Weekly LiTZ Test	Yes	No
Club Message	Yes	No
Driving Directions	Yes	No
Report Drunk Driver	Yes	Yes
Vehicle Breakdown	Yes	Yes
Safety of Life or Property	Yes	Yes

I am thinking of modifying a DTMF decoder circuit I built a few years ago to make it easy to detect LiTZ Signals and open a speaker or sound an alert if one is heard. Stay tuned for more on this.

73 de KA8VIT

SRI-Another One Bites The Dust

A Commentary by Eric Jessen, N8AUC

Swiss Radio International is going dark. Bummer. You could say that another one bites the dust. But they really aren't. They are moving to the Internet.

Although I think we'll see more and more of this kind of thing as time passes, I don't think it's necessarily cause for extreme alarm. It's more like one era stepping aside for another. The internet (as it stands today) knows no boundaries. As long as it's kept free and open, it is certainly capable of replacing short wave broadcasting in certain situations.

It won't, however, replace the magic of short wave listening. All the signals will be 40 over 9, and perfectly in the clear. But where is the thrill of the hunt? Where is the challenge of hearing a signal from thousands of miles away, of fighting the QRM and QRN to dig out a weak signal? That is the sport, and the fun, of short wave radio. To borrow the words of John F. Kennedy when he launched America's march to the Moon, "We don't do it because it's easy, we do it because it's hard, we do it because it's a challenge." We do it because meeting the challenge is fun and rewarding in and of itself. We do it for the same reason that people still climb mountains, when they could just ride to the top in a helicopter and be done with it.

On the down side, it will be far easier to jam or restrict access to certain outlets. Block a range of IP addresses, one time through the backbone routers, and it's done. On short wave, it required a concerted effort over an extended period of time to prevent reception of a signal. And if the transmitting station shifted frequencies, then it could avoid the interference and still be heard. During the Cold War, this game of cat and mouse was played out on the short wave bands quite frequently. The mouse had a good chance of winning, like Radio Free Europe or the Voice of America used to do. Over the Internet, the mouse doesn't stand a chance.

The real question is, how does someone in a remote area access the information if there is no infrastructure that will allow access to the internet? This isn't a problem for someone in a well developed area, who can access the Internet easily via broadband, or even a dial-up connection. Streaming audio doesn't require much bandwidth on the part of the consumer. With shortwave it's easy no matter where you are. Pull out a battery operated radio, turn it on, tune in the desired signal, and you've got it, anywhere in the world. That's not possible with the Internet. Not on an individual basis. Not at anywhere near the low cost of a battery powered short wave receiver. As for me, I'll keep listening to over the air signals as long as they're there. Someday though, my short wave broadcast receiver may be relegated to a shelf to serve as a great dust collector. A prized relic of glorious days gone by.

de W2THU ... continued

(Continued from page 2)

Improve LEARA?" This culminated in a decision to solicit your suggestions via a poll. You will soon be receiving a self mailing postcard which will help us determine your interests in amateur radio and your suggestions for moving LEARA along in the 21st century. Our goal is to be a club that listens to its members, tries new ideas and moves forward in our great hobby. Please take a moment to fill out the postcard and to mail it back as soon as possible so that we can carry on with this task.

Have you heard about the new committee to promote amateur radio? Every ham radio organization in the greater Cleveland area has been invited to send a delegate to the initial meeting of this group which will be held near the end of this month at the Red Cross center in downtown Cleveland. LEARA will be represented by Marc Flanagan, KC8SIE. It is always a good idea for hams to pool their resources in order to recruit more young people into our hobby.

A lot of you are just getting back from the Dayton Hamvention. I hope you had a great time. But don't forget that this weekend are two really exciting public service events. First is the Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament, where you can watch these talented youngsters as they play the most popular sport outside of the USA. Then scoot over from the west side of Cleveland to Chagrin Falls where you can assist with the balloon launches at Blossom Time. As a volunteer, you will be chasing these giant, colorful helium filled spheres in your car and reporting their positions to net control. Check elsewhere in this Newsletter for contact information.

I look forward to seeing you at Dimitri's for our May program, dinner and camaraderie.

Behind Net Control ... continued

(Continued from page 6)

wanted to try and point out a few of the main areas where, without the support of the communications volunteers, events like this would be significantly more dangerous for both competitors and spectators. Also, I would like to provide special recognition to Jerry Steele, K8CMI who lead the amateur radio net for the duration of the event, coordinating all voice traffic from the field.

For a complete list of all northeast Ohio public service volunteer opportunities please see the Northeast Ohio Public Service Volunteer web site at:

www.neopsv.org

Upcoming Exam Sessions

May 2004

Date: 29-May-2004

Sponsor: CANTON ARC/MASSILLON ARC
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: GARY L KLINE (330)837-2927
Email: WC8W@SSSNET.COM
Location: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CENTER
 STARK CNTY SHERIFF OFFICE/
 4500 ATLANTIC BLVD NE
 5 MI E OF US RT #77/US RT 62
 CANTON, OH 44705

June 2004

Date: 05-Jun-2004

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA
Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM (440)256-0320
Location: AMATEUR ELECTRONIC SUPPLY
 28940 EUCLID AVE
 3/10TH MI EAST OF I-90
 WICKLIFFE, OH 44092

Date: 05-Jun-2004

Sponsor: SILVERCREEK ARA
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: BARRY J YOUMANS (330)925-1706
Email: KI8B@ARRL.NET
Location: RITTMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
 49 W OHIO AVE
 RITTMAN, OH 44270
 WWW.W8WKY.ORG (HOME PAGE)

Date: 08-Jun-2004

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: BRUCE M FERRY (330)929-2766
Email: SEE WEB PAGE
Location: STOW-MUNROE FALLS LIBRARY
 3512 DARROW RD
 STOW, OH 44224
 HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE

Date: 20-Jun-2004

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
Time: 1:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: CHARLES S HALL
 (216)433-3036
 VE@W8HF.COM
Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
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Upgrade Today!

Upcoming Hamfests

May 2004

Date: 30-May-2004

Sponsor: Franklin County Hamfest Committee
Contact: Chris Lind, KC8BUO
 PO Box 14281
 Columbus, OH 43214
Phone: 614-267-7779
Fax: 614-263-7934
 Email: clind2@juno.com

June 2004

Date: 19-June-2004

Sponsor: Milford ARC
Internet: <http://www.hamvention.org/>
Contact: Chris Reinfelder, KB8SNH
 3782 Grovedale Place
 Cincinnati, OH 45208
Phone: 513-351-2776

Ham and Cheese

By Marc Flanagan, KC8SIE

A year, or so, ago I was using the 146.880 repeater while with a co-worker. I asked my co-worker, who is quick with a quip, if he wanted to talk on my "ham" radio and he accepted. His first words to my contact were "Is this a ham and cheese?"

Although I appreciated his joke, it taught me a lesson. Most people don't know anything about "ham" radio.

If we are to increase our numbers we need to get to the basics. Tell people what we do. I stick to two of the purposes of amateur radio...emergency communications and advancing technology. I tell people cell phones wouldn't be here if it weren't for the work of amateur radio operators.

An excellent example to use when discussing emergency communications is the August, 2003 blackout. Cell phones and the Internet, in this area, went down, but we were "up and running". Eric, N8AUC, told me he even had lights and a fan running that night!

We should also be proud of the work we do with the special events (the marathon, walks, and Pedal To The Point).

So mention your hobby to co-workers, friends, neighbors, and those who look at you funny while you're on your HT. Don't get technical, just tell them what we do...communicate when others can't.

Let's get the word out in order to increase our ranks and to educate....and don't forget to invite them to Field Day with you!

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 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE)
NBRYX 145.07 MHz ó 223.70 MHz Gateway
LEARA 145.07 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.