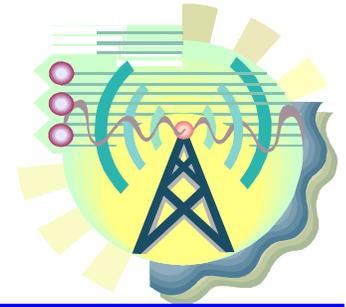




The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

This Month's Meeting — Tuesday, August 31, 2004

When Bad Things Happen to Good Antennas

Presented by Al Dolgosh, K8EUR
Bonus: Test & Tune!

Please join us for our August meeting and 'homecoming' at Dimitri's on August 31.

"When Bad Things Happen to Good Antennas" will be presented by Al Dolgosh, K8EUR. Al is a favored presenter, known for his unorthodox use of doughnuts to show how different features of antennas and antenna placement can change the angle of radiation. For our August presentation, he'll explore a little bit about the antenna-related things that can take a radio from humming along at top performance to woe-

fully out of tune.

BONUS: Test & Tune-bring in your rigs and/or antennas to make sure they're performing at their best. We'll be mostly testing and not so much tuning, since our volunteer testers aren't necessarily rated for mucking around in the innards of your prized classic Heathkit (that's not to say they couldn't...it's just that they'd sure hate to make an "oops" on your dime)! Testers include LEARA Radio Officers Raye Bayun N8NAP and Bryan Torok N8OOF, along with Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ.

August, 2004

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2004 LEARA Picnic Recap

de Sara Cechner, KC8KSU

Though the weather forecast was somewhat doubtful, we ended up having beautiful weather for the annual LEARA picnic meeting, just as we did for Field Day. Long-time hams and a few new ones came, along with friends and family, to enjoy the evening at Brecksville Reservation's Oak Grove picnic area.

We had great eats and a whole mess of fun door prizes, as usual, courtesy of Jeff & Lori Garvas (N8YNR & KC8MYE), and a host of assistant burger flippers. Jeff came out a little bit ahead on picnic food money last year, so this year, he invested in an oversized charcoal grill

which beat the pants off what the park has to offer for getting food to the table in a hurry, and which can be wheeled under cover in case of rain. This year, LEARA pitched in some hotdogs that were left over from Field Day (and frozen in the meantime, of course) and some of the pop, too, but for the most part, Jeff foots the bill for the annual picnic meetings out of his own pocket. If he comes out a little ahead, he'll save it or invest in something like the grill to improve the event in subsequent years, and if he comes out behind, then he basically has a deduction for his tax return. So when you pay for your picnic meal, you're

(Continued on page 4)

OFFICERS

President Bob Winston, W2THU	W2THU@leara.org 216-771-3314
Vice President Eric Jessen, N8AUC	N8AUC@leara.org 440-734-3146
Vice President Alex Manuk, WD8JMM	WD8JMM@leara.org 216-459-8523
Secretary Bryan Toro, N8OOF	N8OOF@leara.org 440-871-5456
Treasurer Dave Foran, WB8APD	WB8APD@leara.org 440-942-0618
License Trustee Eric Jessen, N8AUC	N8AUC@leara.org 440-734-3146

TRUSTEES

Cliff Bade, W8CJB	W8CJB@leara.org 440-235-1122
Raye Bayun, N8NAP	N8NAP@leara.org 146.760/R
Jeff Garvas, N8YNR	N8YNR@leara.org 216-552-4368
Marv Grossman, W8AZO	W8AZO@leara.org 440-248-0031
Tom Long N8QXA	N8QXA@leara.org 440-356-0741
Sara Cechner, KC8KSU	KC8KSU@leara.org 440-942-8787
Jim Ozello, N8XDO	N8XDO@leara.org 216-475-7218
John Radney, KC8FOC	KC8FOC@leara.org 216-751-7067
Grant Hedrick, KV0T	KV0T@leara.org 440-944-2184
Tom Bishop, W8TAB	W8TAB@leara.org 440-331-9374

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Al Amster, W8HYG	Al Severson, AB8P (SK)
Fred Collins, W8ADW	Pat Shreve, W8GRG (SK)

POINTS OF CONTACT

"Sunshine" Don Raith, N8DJG	216-921-7546
Radio Officer Raye Bayun N8NAP	146.76/R
Radio Officer Bryan Torok, N8OOF	146.88/R

The *Spirit of '76 & '88* is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 1st of the month.

Editor:

Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

E-mail: editor@leara.org

de W2THU...

Although this summer is a bit cloudier and cooler than normal, we have had some delightful low humidity weather in late July and early August. Our annual picnic took place on just one of those perfect summer nights in the Brecksville Metroparks. Thanks to Lori and Jeff (KC8MYE and N8YNR) and Jim, N8XDO and his XYL, Carol, there was plenty of delicious food to go around. We also got to see a lot of our members who only attend the picnic meeting, as we were all treated to an interesting talk about the Metroparks communications system courtesy of a Metroparks Ranger. Thanks to Sara, KC8KSU for making those arrangements and for preparing certificates of appreciation that were passed out to deserving members for the club's Field Day efforts.

I need to correct a statement that I made to the members at the picnic meeting regarding the upcoming elections for Trustee. Because your Board extended the deadline to accept written nominations we are now able to accept your nomination until 31 August 2004, the date of our regular membership meeting at Dimitri's. Any LEARA member in good standing who has been a member for at least one year is eligible. You are required to accept the nomination in writing and to convey it to Bryan Torok, N8OOF. The five Trustees up for reelection this year are Tom Bishop W8TAB, Raye Bayun N8NAP, Jeff Garvas N8YNR, Tom Long, N8QXA and Jim Ozello, N8XDO.

This Newsletter is being sent out a little early to make sure that everybody is aware that Jeff Garvas, N8YNR needs as many volunteers as possible for the National MS Society's Pedal to the Point Fund-raiser to be held on 21 and 22 August. Another very important pub-

(Continued on page 3)

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. Call **Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031** or make your reservation online 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.

Association News

de W2THU . . .

(Continued from page 2)

lic service event, which may require you to clone yourself a bit, is the Cuyahoga County ARES Mass Casualty Drill at Burke Lakefront Airport on 21 August. This simulation of a real airport disaster is a requirement for the airport to maintain its certification. Contact our Cuyahoga County EC, Mike Diturno, KC8OWL to volunteer.

Are you in a ham radio funk lately? Do you find yourself turning on your rig less often than when you first got your license? Or worse, did you give up the hobby entirely? If so, you need an injection of one-a-day amateur radio contacts. Make just one contact a day on any ham band to lift your radio spirit. Better yet, participate in a public service event where you get outdoors and mix ham radio with some fresh air. Don't let all of the time and money you invested in our great hobby go to waste. Get on the air and stay on the air as much as possible! This is one of the many ways that we preserve our amateur radio bands.

I'm looking forward to another fine lecture in the Al Dolgosh, K8EUR antenna series. If you are new to LEARA and ham radio you are in for a real treat when our own candy store salesman furthers our understanding of how antennas really work. Is it all voodoo or can we really make those electromagnetic waves go where we want them? Bring a couple of doughnuts to Dimitri's. You'll need them for the demonstration. I'll see you there!

73 de Bob Winston W2THU

Looking Forward

Sat., 9/11 - Trustees' meeting, see info on page 2.

Tues, 9/28 - "LEARA Repeaters-Fact and Fiction."

This ought'a be a good one. LEARA Vice President, Eric Jessen, N8AUC is well-qualified to offer this presentation, since his talents include having a looooooong memory of all things LEARA. He'll also be tapping into the resources of a number of charter LEARA members to give us an overview on how the LEARA repeaters came to be, and how they're intended to operate. An alternate title could be "A LEARA Carol," repeaters past, present, and future, but really, he's just out to dispel some of the myths about LEARA's mighty repeater network.

Tues., 10/26 - Club Elections + Homebrew

Bring all those winter projects that you haven't had a chance to show off, yet!! Got an oversize project? Bring photos and diagrams! Election and Program brought to you by the LEARA Election Committee + LEARA's Most Innovative Hams. For election info, see notices appearing elsewhere in this and the September issue, as well as a ballot mailer which you can expect at the end of September or early in October.

Sat., 11/8 - Trustees' meeting, see info on page 2.

If you have a program idea for LEARA's monthly general meeting, contact our Program Chair, Sara (KC8KSU) at kc8ksu@leara.org or call 440-942-8787, and she'll try to make it happen!

July Door Prize Winners

Andy, KC8YFO—Book Light

Jack, W8JAK—Book Light

John, KG8YZ—Picnic Pak

Bob, KB8PLI—T-Shirt

Peter, N8OHW—Tote Bag

Katie, daughter of WD8JMM—T-Shirt, Spring Clamps

Raye, N8NAP—Set of Spring Clamps

Becky, daughter of N8AUC—Cooler

Gil, KE8WV—Micro Vac

Bob, W2THU—Candle

John, K8RWR—Cooler

XYL of KD8ZK—Picnic Pak

Michael, KB8YKE—Candle

2004 LEARA Picnic Recap

(Continued from page 1)

really just reimbursing Jeff, and he really appreciates it!

Through a stroke of good luck and just a bit of advance planning, we also had a guest speaker, Lt. Mark Carney of the Cleveland Metroparks Rangers, who coordinates communications as well as Special Ops. He gave a brief program followed by a question-and-answer session about how Cleveland Metroparks communications are conducted, and how their facilities have grown and been improved over the years. Metroparks Rangers have full police powers, run about 22 units per shift, use 2-3 dispatchers to coordinate them, and manage to cover a 6-county area, which gets translated into zones, since the parks are widely spaced throughout that area. As one might expect, their biggest communications challenge is to get communications into the low-lying areas where those hikers who occasionally lose a battle with gravity often end up. Most areas of the system now have good coverage due to smart placement of repeater inputs. ...and that's the Reader's Digest version. If you didn't come, well, you missed an interesting, and for many of us, enlightening program.



At the conclusion of the evening, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the Field Day MVPs of 2004. The recipients were pleasantly surprised and a number of them protested that they did it for just about any other reason than for recognition-they're just dedicated Field Day participants. We honored 'em, anyway, and everyone had a good time!

LEARA Wants YOU!

LEARA Wants Trustee Candidates

The LEARA Board of Trustees has extended the deadline for nominations until the close of the August, 2004 meeting. The Election Committee is seeking interested persons to place on the ballot in October, when LEARA will elect one third of its Board of Trustees.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a member-in-good-standing and must have joined LEARA before the August 31, 2003 deadline for nominations. Please make your intentions known as soon as possible to avoid the last-minute rush. If you are interested in running, here's what is needed:

1. A written statement from you indicating your willingness to run and serve if elected;
2. Someone to make the nomination (the Election Committee may do that, but it's better if you supply the nominator); and
3. Someone to second your nomination (same as above).

Incumbent trustees are automatically put on the ballot unless they formally withdraw.

This year's incumbents are:

Tom Long, N8QXA; Raye Bayun, N8NAP; Jeff Garvas, N8YNR; Jim Ozello, N8XDO, and Tom Bishop, W8TAB.

All candidates are encouraged to submit a short bio and/or campaign statement(s) for inclusion with the election materials which will be mailed to all members-in-good-standing at least 2 weeks before the October election meeting. Submit nominations and bio/statements to:

Bryan Torok, N8OOF, b.torok@en.com

Special Notice

For the first time in several years, Dimitri's has informed the Board of Trustees of a need to raise pricing for the LEARA dinner menu. As of the August meeting, the dinner cost, formerly 14.50, will be increased to 15.00 per person. This modest increase will ensure continued good quality food, excellent service, and a pleasant atmosphere for our meetings.

LEARA Trustee's Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Attendees were W8CJB, N8NAP, W8TAB, KC8KSU, WB8APD, N8YNR, W8AZO, N8AUC, N8QXA, WD8JMM, N8XDO, KC8FOC, N8OOF, and W2THU

Minutes from the May 8, 2004 Trustees' Meeting were read and accepted with minor typographical correction.

Treasurer's Report by Dave Foran, WB8APD: \$2,904.56 in bank

Radio Officers Report by Raye, N8NAP, and Bryan, N8OOF: The 146.76 repeater is operating with the new antenna (Antenna Specialists DB224E) installed. The 146.76 Willoughby input will be moved to Dave Foran's house. The Board authorized Raye to spend up to \$200 for antenna, feedline, and hardware needed for the move. The 146.88 link receiver is hearing poorly.

Membership Chair Report by Marv Grossman, W8AZO: 329 paid members.

Program Chair Report by Sara Cechner, KC8KSU: Possible programs discussed.

Election Committee Report : Motion by Bryan/seconded by Jeff to extend the deadline for nominations (as permitted in the Bylaws) to the end of the August meeting. Passed unanimously. Dave Foran to buy envelopes as used in previous years.

Old (Unfinished) Business:

Westlake tower - per Eric, N8AUC - sidearm and feedline installed and working, 70 feet up tower, APRS Digipeater installed and running at the Westlake site.

Field Day report - per Eric, N8AUC - operated class 2A, it was the best ever, 41 attended for the dinner/meeting, SSTV demo was done between station at our site and between our site and the Submarine Cod site, 2512 points achieved w/ most of the available bonus points, 49 out of 50 states worked. Motion by John KC8FOC/seconded Jeff N8YNR to produce and award certificates of recognition to those responsible. Passed unanimously.

IRLP Status, computer/networking problems - per Jeff N8YNR - up and working.

Status of 444.400 project, moving location, frequency, etc. - per Cliff W8CJB - it will have the same coverage as 444.95, it was noted that the board previously approved up to \$1500 for this project (at the March 13, 2004 Trustees' meeting).

"How can we improve LEARA?" - Survey status, Communication paths to Trustees - after discussion, motion by Jeff/seconded by Eric to incorporate the survey into the mailing of the ballot materials in October. Passed unanimously.

Election SOP - Marv incorporated Sara's suggestions. Marv will send out again.

New Business:

Elmer Program status: Sara reported that Bill Chaikin, KB8VIT, resigned from the program. Discussion ensued, program to continue.

LEARA Net status: Discussed, summer is usually slow, picks up in winter, to continue.

Use of E-mail, newsletter, alerts, etc.: Discussed, motion made by Alex/seconded by Bryan to authorize Dave Foran to create LEARA e-mail list to send notices of the newsletter and other pertinent or emerging data as determined by the Trustees. The list will allow only Trustees to post to it. Passed unanimously.

Annual Picnic: per Jeff, to be the same location and menu as last year.

Motion to Adjourn by John Radney, seconded by Eric Jessen, and passed unanimously at 11:18 a.m.

Public Service Opportunities

2004 Pedal to the Point

de Jeff Garvas, N8YNR

The Buckeye Chapter of the National MS Society has scheduled the annual Pedal To The Point for August 21st and 22nd (Saturday/Sunday) this year!

I need approximately 25-35 volunteers for this event who have a mobile radio or amplified HT radios on two-meters (UHF a plus). Those of you who volunteer will be assigned to various locations along the 100-mile route on day one and 75 mile route on day two. I need so many volunteers for this event that I will accept ANY time commitment you wish to make.

If you contribute a minimum of eight hours to this event you will be eligible for discounted tickets for Cedar Point! All volunteers get really nice t-shirts, food all along the route or at rest stops, dinner at the finishes, and flying pancakes if you show up early Sunday morning. They literally throw them in the air and you get to eat

what you catch!

Camping is available in Sandusky, or bring a sleeping bag for the Gym floor. This event is A LOT of fun and GREAT radio experience. Unlike most events, P2P is strongly focused on the medical safety of every rider, and most logistical event traffic is handled off the air. Hams with first aid experience or certifications are encouraged to point out their skills when they volunteer. Please share this information with everyone you know since we need NUMEROUS volunteers.

Volunteer by emailing me at jeff@mspedal.org or leave a message at (216) 552-4368. Last minute help is also welcome, please call N8YNR on 146.76 or meet at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, northwest entrance, in Berea for assignments.

2004 Airport Drill

de Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

The Scenario:

A Gulfstream III is on approach to runway 24R at Burke Lakefront Airport.

The airport is experiencing a severe thunderstorm with heavy rain and wind gusts to 40 knots. Just before touchdown the Gulfstream experiences a wind shear and nose dives into the runway. The gear collapses and flames are showing from both sides of the aircraft as it skids down the runway. There is no radio traffic from the aircraft

On **Saturday, August 21**, a mass casualty drill will be conducted at Burke Lakefront Airport according to the scenario described above. The Cuyahoga County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is actively recruiting members to register with ARES, participate in this event, demonstrate amateur radios value at times of crisis, and help rebuild Cuyahoga County's Amateur Radio Emergency Service into a service that adds value to our county's emergency management organization. For more information or to volunteer, please contact me by e-mail at kc8owl@yahoo.com

2004 River Run

de The Editor

Once again, LEARA has been asked to provide communications for the 2004 River Run. The event consists of a 'half-marathon' race through the Rocky River reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Amateurs are needed to provide safety communications for the route. The event typically runs two to three hours, commencing at about 8 AM. This year's River Run is scheduled for **September 12**, so mark your calendars now!

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

Hamfest Listing

August

15 Warren ARA
<http://www.w8vtd.org/>
 Contact: Renee McCaman, KB8SVF
 317 Raymond Avenue NW
 Warren, OH 44483
 Phone: 330-847-8478
 Email: rrmccaman@earthlink.net

28 Portsmouth Radio Club
 Contact: Kim Lozier, N8ZW
 Phone: 740-456-1616
 Email: n8zw@falcon1.net

September

12 Findlay Radio Club
<http://www.findlayradioclub.org>
 Contact: Bill Kelsey, N8ET
 3521 Spring Lake Drive
 Findlay, OH 45840
 Phone: 419-423-5643
 Email: kanga@bright.net

26 Hamfest Association of Cleveland
<http://www.hac.org>
 Contact: William Beckman, N8LXY
 4360 Metropolitan Drive
 Cleveland, OH 44135
 Phone: 800-CLE-FEST or 216-999-7388
 Email: info@hac.org

October

10 Medina 2 Meter Group
<http://www.qsl.net/m2m>
 Contact: Ed Eyerdom, K8NVR
 3312 State Road
 Medina, OH 44256
 Phone: 330-239-1686
 Email: k8nvr@arrl.net

31 Massillon ARC
<http://www.marcradio.org>
 Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ
 3420 Briardale Circle NW
 Massillon, OH 44646
 Phone: 330-837-3091
 Email: truss@sssnet.com

November

6 Grant ARC
<http://www.geocities.com/garcoho/>
 Contact: Rodney Crawford, WD8CTX
 PO Box 76
 Buford, OH 45110
 Phone: 937-446-2338
 Email: wd8ctx@juno.com

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
8/15	Elyria	11/14	Independence
		11/21	Elyria
9/12	Independence		
9/19	Elyria	12/6	Wickliffe
		12/21	Elyria
10/2	Wickliffe		
10/17	Elyria		
10/30	Bentleyville		

Akron, Pioneer AR Fellowship - 2324 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH, 44314. Pre-registration preferred, check-in 6:30 PM, test at 7:00 PM, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Ronald D. Lieving, 330-724-5981.

Akron, Summit Co. American Red Cross - 501 W. Market St., Akron, OH, 44303. Testing at 3:00 PM, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Bruce M. Ferry, 330-929-2766, ak8b@arrl.net

Bentleyville - Bentleyville Town Hall, 6253 Chagrin River Rd., (corner of Solon Rd & River Rd) Bentleyville, OH 44022. Testing begins at 9:00 AM, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Robert Gauss, N8ZB, 330-562-3328, w8cbr@yahoo.com

Cuyahoga Falls - 2015 3rd St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221. Test at 7:00 PM, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Steven Greathouse, 330-724-2247.

Elyria - American Red Cross, 2929 West River Rd., Elyria, OH, 44035. Testing at 1:00 PM, park in rear and enter through back door, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Charles S. Hall, 216-433-3036, ve@w8hf.com, www.w8hf.com

Independence - Independence Town Hall, 6652 Brecks-ville Rd., Independence OH, 44131. Doors open 9:00 AM. Pre-registration is appreciated, walk-ins are welcome. **Contact:** Gary S. Dewey, 216-642-9705, gdewey@en.com

Wickliffe - Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 28940 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Testing at 12:00 PM, Walk-ins are welcome. **Contact:** Scott Farnham, 440-256-0320. Do NOT call the store for information on VE testing.

**** HAMFESTS - Many hamfests provide VE testing. ****

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEST CANDIDATES

For VE testing one must bring the original and copies of the current license and CSCE forms (if applicable), identification, and the exam fee. ARRL VEC's exam fees are \$12.00. Check with the contact person in advance for specific testing site requirements and any special test accommodations needed.

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

VOICE REPEATERS:

53.230/R-
146.76/R-
146.88/R-
224.90/R-
444.40/R+
444.70/R+

- Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone)
 - Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby)
 - Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone)
 - Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone)
 - Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone)
 - 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
NBRYX
LEARA

- 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE)
- 145.07 MHz ⇔ 223.70 MHz Gateway
- 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.
Those who subscribe via e-mail will not receive a paper copy.

Affiliated



Club

Northern Ohio



Affiliate