



# The Spirit of '76 and '88

Number ONE in Ohio!



## Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

### This Month's Meeting — Tuesday, October 26, 2004

## Election and Homebrew Nite

Hosted by Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

October's election and program is brought to you by the LEARA Election Committee and LEARA's Most Innovative Hams.

For 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! Prizes will be awarded for Most Innovative and Most Practical projects in two groups: completed solo and completed as part of a group effort. Alex Manuk, WD8JMM, will emcee the festivities and select the judging panel.

Regarding the elections, see the ballot mailer which was mailed early in October along with membership re-

newal information and the updated LEARA roster. If you have not received your ballot and/or membership renewal information, please let Membership Chair and election committee member Marv Grossman know (440-248-0031 or W8AZO@leara.org) and he will mail you a replacement.

Further election details are on page 6.

For those attending the meeting, dinner choices (steak, chicken parmesan, or broiled fish) are \$15 per person. Dinner is served at approximately 6:30, with the business meeting beginning at 7:30.

## October, 2004

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## September Program Recap

LEARA Repeater Myths Debunked and Policies Explained

*de Sara, KC8KSU*

LEARA License Trustee and long-time member Eric Jessen, N8AUC, presented a very informative program, which started off with a recounting of the history of LEARA repeaters, based on information gleaned from Bill Hess, K8SGX and recalled by other notable LEARA members. It is a rich history dating back some years before 1974, when two clubs merged to become the LEARA we know today.

As the story unfolded, some of the myths about LEARA repeaters began to make sense. Due to a fire, some access problems, the inception of repeater coordination and the rules that went along with it, and other various issues, the location, directionality and maximum power output of LEARA repeaters and antenna towers have necessarily had to be moved over the years, but this has not had a significant effect on coverage. With the advent of wireless everything from phones to pagers and packing every available commercial radio frequency chock full with active stations, the noise floor has risen

*(Continued on page 4)*

OFFICERS	
President <b>Bob Winston, W2THU</b>	W2THU@leara.org 216-771-3314
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<b>Fred Collins, W8ADW</b>	<b>Pat Shreve, W8GRG (SK)</b>
POINTS OF CONTACT	
"Sunshine" <b>Don Raith, N8DJG</b>	216-921-7546
Radio Officer <b>Raye Bayun N8NAP</b>	146.76/R
Radio Officer <b>Bryan Torok, N8OOF</b>	146.88/R
<p>The <i>Spirit of '76 &amp; '88</i> is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Alex Manuk, WD8JMM</p> <p>E-mail: editor@leara.org</p>	

## de W2THU...

We had a very informative program at the September meeting when our license trustee Eric, N8AUC, not only spoke about the history of LEARA but described our repeater inventory, including the radios, location, antennas, links and ERP of each machine. This was a good primer for newbies and a refresher course for old timers. Our meeting room at Dimitri's was filled as Eric explained that although our repeater system has excellent coverage, it is not designed to receive an HT signal from every location in the county and certainly not from inside a car or rapid transit train. Thanks also to Bill Hess, K8SGX, for writing the club history a few years ago, and Raye Bayun, N8NAP, for providing a complete equipment list.



As you know, LEARA also participated in the Cleveland Hamfest at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on 26 September. This was one of the best hamfests in recent memory. The weather was warm and sunny throughout the region (except for that lingering cloud over the fairgrounds) and there were no bees! There was a good mix of vendors and flea market sellers. The ARRL forum was held in a quiet room with comfortable seating. This forum was very well attended as our Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE, and our Ohio Section manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE answered attendees questions about the League position on BPL and other matters.

As usual, LEARA set up a very attractive table with interesting displays that were designed and constructed by Steve, KB8UTA and his son Jacob, KC8GHX. Many of you checked in to say hello. It was fun to meet long time amateur radio friends, including a former student that I had not seen for over 10 years. We were able to sign

*(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)

up new members and renew some old memberships.

This month's meeting marks the annual elections at which time the balloting closes. You should have received your ballot and other election materials by the time you are reading this column. The ballots, candidate biographies, renewal notices and surveys were mailed first class from the main post office in downtown Cleveland on 8 October 2004. If you have not received a ballot, then contact me immediately or be sure to attend this month's club meeting where we can give you a replacement ballot.

As you recall, shortly after assuming the presidency, I had asked you, the members of LEARA, to let me know how you felt about the club and the direction you wanted to see it go. As a follow up, the Board approved mailing a survey to the membership earlier in the year, which was delayed due to cost. Now, that very survey appears on the back of your ballot form. **Please take a few minutes to fill it out so we can have your input on this important matter.**

There are many public service events that hams support, both within and without LEARA. One of my favorites is the Shaker Heights Pumpkin Patrol organized by Joe Swartz, N8IPA. Joe is a Shaker resident who liaisons with club member Bob Doles, KB8CQX, a Shaker police officer. Our role is to drive throughout the community on Halloween night to make sure that the children trick or treat in a safe environment. If we see something that demands police attention, we do not intervene, but call for assistance via amateur radio. Ham participation over the years has worked out quite well for Cleveland's most famous suburb. If you would like to help out, please contact Joe directly.

I look forward to seeing you at Dimitri's where we will announce the results of this year's election.

73 de Bob Winston W2THU

### Looking Forward

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming programs (all at local meeting place, Dimitri's, unless otherwise noted):

**Tues., 10/26** – Homebrew + Club Elections

See notices appearing elsewhere in this issue for details.

**Sat., 11/13** – Trustees' Meeting and Officer Elections (Parma-Snow Library, on Snow Road across from Dimitri's): Any LEARA member is welcome to join the bi-monthly meeting of the officers. If you have an issue that you would like to be heard by the Trustees, we strongly recommend that you submit it to any Trustee prior to the meeting date.

**Tues., 11/30** – Holiday Social

We hope to have some form of appropriate entertainment for this meeting, which traditionally consists mostly of a hearty dinner and fine conversation. As of this issue of *Spirit of '76 and '88*, none has been lined up. If you have an idea about that or if you yourself would like to lend your talent to the LEARA social, please contact Program Chair Sara Cechner, KC8KSU as noted below.

For the November issue, we'll be posting some of the program ideas that are in the hopper for next year.

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

### Correction

The September 2004 *Spirit of '76 & '88* published the un-reviewed minutes from our September 2004 Trustee's meeting. Those minutes incorrectly stated that some LEARA equipment, helpful to locating bozos, had been loaned to the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society and had never been returned. In fact, the item had been loaned to a former CARS member, not to CARS. LEARA apologizes to CARS for any misunderstanding. As is our custom, the minutes will be reviewed and corrected at the next Board meeting.

## September Meeting Recap

(Continued from page 1)

dramatically at prime, high altitude sites. This really limits our ability to hear weak signals along the fringe of our coverage area. The reason why repeater range is limited is because the earth is round, not flat, and once you are beyond the horizon there is dirt between you and the repeater. Antenna height is what determines range at VHF and UHF. So, except during a band opening, it is just physically impossible to hit LEARA repeaters from as far away as Toledo, and it always has been, despite anecdotal rumors to the contrary. However, because of the altitude at our prime repeater sites, LEARA repeaters continue to offer excellent mobile coverage, ranging from 25-30 miles from the repeater site.

In the second half of the program Eric recounted some recent developments such as LEARA's IRLP node on the 444.4 repeater, and the attendant interference problems with a Canadian repeater which we have been working to resolve diplomatically. He also reminded listeners of club policy for repeater usage, such as:

- 1) If you get reports that you have a poor signal, please fix it or sign off until you can get to a radio or position where you have better coverage.
- 2) Our repeaters were designed to provide county-wide coverage from a 10 watt mobile with a 1/4 wave external antenna. Using less radio and antenna than that will drastically limit your range. An HT on a rubber duck inside the car just doesn't cut it.
- 3) No foul language. We're a family organization (not to mention that we're regulated by the FCC).
- 4) CB lingo is best left to CB channels. LEARA has a long and fine tradition of being a first class organization, and we really want to keep it that way!
- 5) DXing should not be done through a repeater. That is best done on simplex.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, note that these remarks were intended to be instructive, not punitive or discouraging.

## Welcome!

LEARA Welcomes our newest member, Doug Coil, KB8MCD! Those of you who have attended the past few meetings have probably met Doug. His application for membership was recently approved by the trustees, and we'd like to welcome him to LEARA. Make sure you say hi when you hear him on the air!

## September Door Prizes

Free Dinner: Mike Wolf, KD8ACG

Soldering Iron: George Ingmand, WA8YVF

Meter: Marie Ingmand, KB4VSR

Power Supply: Bob Sull, W8IMO

Soldering Iron: Mike Wolf, KD8ACG

Tool Kit: Jess Noeth, KD8ACJ

Soldering Iron: Jack Andrisin, W8JAK



Gator Clip Set: Jess Noeth, KD8ACJ

Air Compressor: George Cox, W8PJN

Backpack: Frank Hvizdos, W8ACQ

Jacket: John Gibbons, N8OBJ

Power Supply: Ron Wolenski, N8WCR

## Pumpkin Patrol!

*de Joe Swartz, N8IPC*

The Shaker Heights Police Department is asking for assistance on Halloween evening. It needs the eyes, ears, and communication skills of a few good hams. Every year since 1987 or 1988, we have provided this support by driving or walking around in Shaker observing and reporting any suspicious activity that we see. We do not get directly involved. The pros handle the problems. Sergeant Bob Doles KB8CQX will be the liaison between the hams and the Police Department.

If you would like to participate this year, here are the details. We will meet at the Shaker Heights Police Station at 5:30 PM on Sunday, October 31, 2004. We should be done by 8:15 PM. The station is located at 3355 Lee Road, just north of Van Aken Boulevard. Park in the lot just north of the station. Contact Joe N8IPC if you plan to participate -- [jswartz@apk.net](mailto:jswartz@apk.net), 216.991.1951 (evenings), or on 146.76 during drive time.



## Repeater ABC's - first of a series

*de Eric, N8AUC*

This is the first of a series of articles designed to help the newcomer (or not so newcomer) get the most out of repeater operation in general, and LEARA's repeaters in particular.

FM Repeater operation can be loads of fun. Especially during drive time. Nothing makes the miles go by quicker than a good conversation! It can also be a tremendous tool that can be used to help others under lots of different circumstances. But, like anything else, in order to get the most out of it, some understanding must be obtained first. After all, what good are the best, most full-featured repeaters in the Cleveland area if you don't know how to use them?

If you're like most new hams, your first radio is likely to be a handi-talkie, often referred to as an "HT". Modern HTs are pretty amazing little devices, and possess a lot of versatility. But they can also cause you a lot of problems if not used properly.

An HT is primarily designed to be used as a portable, self-contained, hand-held unit. That's why they have those tiny little antennas, and rechargeable battery packs, to make them easy to carry around with you. They're great for use at public service events. But with the addition of some proper accessories, they can be used for much more than that.

If you intend on operating your HT from an automobile, as a substitute for a mobile rig, please don't use the supplied flexible antenna (called a rubber ducky) inside the vehicle. LEARA's repeaters are designed to provide county wide coverage of Cuyahoga County from a 10 watt mobile radio with a 1/4 wave vertical antenna in the center of the car roof. They actually give better coverage than that. But if you have less radio and antenna than that specified, your coverage will suffer as a result.

Since the car body is normally grounded, if you use your rubber ducky in the car, most of your transmitted signal will be shunted to ground by the vehicle body, instead of reaching out to hit a repeater input. Some signal will "leak out" around the vehicle windows, and in a few locations, this may be enough to give you a good signal into the repeater. Most of the time though, it rarely works well at all.

Your goal is to have a noise free signal into the repeater. This is called being "full quieting". You will seldom be full quieting by using your rubber duck inside a car, a bus, or a rapid transit train, even though you may hear the repeater just fine. When I was a lot younger, I used to try this quite

frequently. This is a lesson I learned the hard way.

When operating from a vehicle, you really want your antenna outside the vehicle. The easiest and least expensive way to do this is with a magnet mount antenna on the vehicle roof. Run the coax in through an open window, or through the weather stripping of a door seal, and your little "5 watt wonder" will work much better. The difference will be like night and day! A decent magnet mount antenna will set you back anywhere from \$15 to \$50, depending on what you buy and where you buy it.

Some people will tell you that "you aren't a real ham until you drill a hole in your car to install a permanent antenna mount". Well, I don't know about that. It took a lot of years for me to get up the nerve to drill a hole in MY car. I will say this though, that is how you get the cleanest, neatest mobile installations. And they do seem to work better. But there is nothing wrong with a magnet mount. Antennas that mount on the window glass can work quite well, too. Generally they don't work as well as a magnet mount. But I've used them with rather good success. The upside to an on-glass mount is that you won't scratch or mar your vehicle finish with one. Modern units are even made to look like cellular phone antennas, which makes them very inconspicuous in a parking lot.

Another weapon in your arsenal is "the brick". No, not like the ones you use to build a house! In this case "the brick" is an external RF power amplifier. Years ago, these little gems got their nickname because they were about the size, and weight of a brick. Like everything else these days, modern "bricks" are smaller and lighter. For less than \$100, one of these amplifiers will take 1-5 watts of signal from your radio, and give you 30-40 watts of RF output power. This is almost as much as a full fledged mobile radio. Some "bricks" even have receiver preamplifiers built in to boost your receiver sensitivity. As an added side benefit, these amplifiers have tuned circuits in them that will act as a band pass filter, and depending on how the unit you choose is designed and built, it may even reduce the amount of "intermod" you experience. If you must use an HT as a mobile rig, having a brick to call your own can be a real advantage.

All this is beginning to sound expensive, isn't it? Here's a dirty little secret. By the time you have purchased your HT, and an antenna, and a brick, you could have had a real mobile radio that has a better, more interference resistant receiver, lots more receive audio volume (which

*(Continued on page 6)*

## LEARA's Elections, Survey this Month



The LEARA Annual Meeting and election will take place at this month's meeting. All LEARA members in good standing are eligible to vote in this election. If you are in doubt about your eligibility, or if you are eligible and have not received a ballot, contact Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at **440-248-0031** or leave a message on the LEARA voice mail line at **440-942-0154**.

The following fine candidates appear on the ballot:

**Raye Bayun, N8NAP**  
**Tom Long, N8QXA**  
**Tom Bishop, W8TAB**  
**Steve Kinosh, KB8UTA**  
**Jim Ozello, N8XDO**  
**Jeff Garvas, N8YNR**



Please read the biographies enclosed with the ballot materials and vote for the candidate(s) who you believe will do the best job of running your Association.

Pay close attention to the instructions for voting included with the ballot. Every year a few ballots are invalidated because members failed to sign the outside of the official ballot return envelope.



October is the month LEARA begins collecting dues for the following year. You **are encouraged** to include your LEARA dues for next year in the envelope with your ballot.

Included with the ballot materials is the 2004 LEARA Annual Survey. The Trustees really want to know what you think. This is **your association**. Let us know what we can do to make it better or more interesting for you. What can we do to get you more involved?

So, read the Candidate Biographies, vote, renew, complete the survey, and mail it all back. You get to kill three birds with one stone, and we supply the envelope. Such a deal!

Please note that ballots close promptly at 7:30PM on October 26th, all ballots must be received by the election committee at that time.

## Tellers Needed

*de Bryan, N8OOF*

If you're reading this newsletter, you probably already know that this is our election month, when we get to choose those who will manage the Association for the coming year. An important part of that process involves counting the votes. It is an important job, one that needs to be done accurately.

That is where you come in. We need about eight to ten members to help with counting the votes. If you are going to be attending the meeting and would like to help, please let me know at the phone number or e-mail address on page 2. If possible arrive a bit early to help with set up. We will be arranging for the tellers to be seated together and served first so that we can get to the counting promptly at 7:30 p.m. The more help we get, the quicker we get it done.

## Repeater ABC's

*(Continued from page 5)*

helps overcome road noise in the car), and more RF power output, for less money. Good, single band, 2m mobile radios can be had for about \$150 (or less if you catch a sale).

The bottom line:

- 1) Your goal is to be "full quieting" into the repeater.
- 2) Don't use an HT with a rubber duck inside the car.
- 3) If you must use an HT as a mobile rig, proper accessories aren't optional equipment.
- 4) You might save a few bucks by using a real mobile rig in your car, and enjoy better performance as a result!

See YOU on the air!

## Hamfest Listing

### October

**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](mailto: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](mailto:wd8ctx@juno.com)

### January

**23 TUSCO ARC**  
 Contact: Gary Green, K8WFN  
 32210 Norris Road  
 Tippicanoe, OH 44699  
 Phone: 740-922-4454  
 Email: [k8wfn@tusco.net](mailto:k8wfn@tusco.net)

### March

**19 Great Lakes Division Convention  
 Toledo Mobile Radio Association**  
 Toledo, Ohio  
 Contact: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP  
 9408 Salisbury Road  
 Monclova, OH 43542-9700  
 Phone: 419-260-4310  
 Email: [kb8iup@arrl.net](mailto:kb8iup@arrl.net)

**20 TMRA Hamfest  
 Toledo Mobile Radio Association**  
<http://tmrahamradio.org>  
 Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR  
 4463 Holly Hill Drive  
 Toledo, OH 43614  
 Phone: 419-385-5624  
 Email: [bharrington@mco.edu](mailto:bharrington@mco.edu)

### April

**3 Lake County ARA**  
<http://www.lcara.org>  
 Contact: Rocky, KB8WFD  
 7480 Fern Drive  
 Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060  
 Phone: 440-209-8953  
 Email: [kb8wfd@adelphia.net](mailto:kb8wfd@adelphia.net)

## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/17	Elyria	12/4	Wickliffe
10/19	Akron/Pioneer	12/14	Cuyahoga Falls
10/30	Bentleyville	12/19	Elyria
11/14	Independence	1/9	Independence
11/21	Elyria		

**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](mailto: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](mailto:w8cbr@yahoo.com)

**Cuyahoga Falls** - 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:ve@w8hf.com), [www.w8hf.com](http://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, [gdevey@en.com](mailto:gdevey@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) \*IRLP Node #4282\*
  - 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](http://www.leara.org)
- To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: [spirit76-request@leara.org](mailto:spirit76-request@leara.org)  
Put subscribe in the subject area and your name and callsign in the body.

Affiliated



Club

Northern Ohio



Affiliate