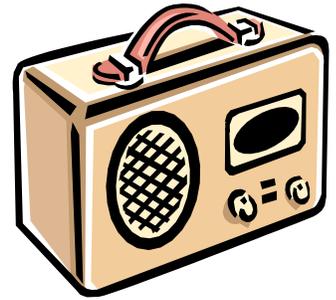




The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

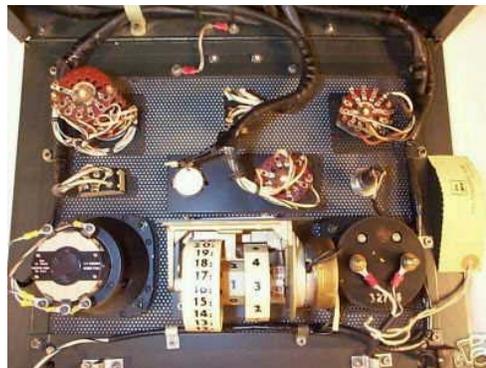
May Meeting—Tuesday, May 31, 2005

Join Us for a Walk Down Memory Lane

LEARAs May general meeting will be about the care, handling and mystical appeal of old HF rigs, which have generated a great deal of interest among collectors in recent years. Long-time ham and electronics enthusiast **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ**, will return to tell us all about how folks are being drawn into our hobby by these wonderful old radios that are big enough to actually be fixable! What's really terrific about them is that no matter their age, they offer the ultimate in long-distance communications, though maybe not so far as to transcend time itself, as was depicted the movie *Frequency*. By the way, *Frequency* featured an old Heathkit radio (at least, it was a Heathkit box). The Heathkit Company is one of several that used to produce kit radios, which are popular because they're relatively easy to build, and easy to work on. That makes these old rigs a dream to own for the "hands on" ham. They're a far cry from the microscopic, ship-it-back-to-the-factory technology in the tiny 2-meter HTs of today!

Jeff will be bringing some of his treasured HF equipment to help illustrate some of these ideas about old rigs, and tell us more about HF radios and their manufacturers from days gone by. Come see what else there is to love about old HF technology on May 31st!

Then join us for our *June* meeting, which will be held on Saturday, June 25th at our Field Day site, Upper Gordon Lakefront State Park, and you can see some HF rigs in action (though you probably won't see any of the old, collectible variety, considering field conditions).



Dinner is served at approximately 6:30 PM, with the meeting and program beginning at 7:30. Dinner choices (Chicken Parmigiana, Steak, or Broiled Scrod) are 15.00 per person, and reservations are required if you wish to eat. Those wishing to make dinner reservations may call Marv Grossman at 440-248-0031, or make your reservations online at <http://www.leara.org>.

May, 2005

In This Issue

Officers/Trustees	2
de W2THU	2
LEARA Info	2
April Door Prizes.....	3
April Meeting Recap	4
Space and Ham Radio.....	5
Repeater ABC's.....	6
Field Day Preview.....	7
Welcome to the Club!.....	7
Antenna Strategies	8
Westlake Soccer Update.....	8
Event & Exam Listing	9



Memorial Day Weekend means WIST! For details, see page 8!

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<p>The <i>Spirit of '76 & '88</i> is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 1st of the month.</p> <p>Editor: Alex Manuk, WD8JMM</p> <p>E-mail: editor@leara.org</p>	

de W2THU...

I much enjoyed our April meeting where Don Wade, W8DEA spoke about his experiences as a FEMA Field Supervisor in the Florida panhandle shortly after the destructive hurricanes came through in November of 2004. Even while we were eating dinner, Don had set up a slide show of the many photos he took while attempting to relocate folks who lost their homes due to the severe weather. In the Q&A that followed his talk, we learned that not all Floridians were happy to see a federal worker who came to their door saying "Hi, I'm here to help you." It seems that W8DEA got to look down the barrel of a shotgun from the wrong end. We're glad he survived the assignment and could join us at Dimitri's Thank you Don.



I'd like to revisit the subject of the weekly LEARA net only because we are getting so few check ins. The present version has been with us for at least 10 years, if not longer. We are trying to provide a service and promote the club at the same time. So, if you are not checking in because you don't find it very interesting, then why not drop a line to me or any trustee to let us know what subject(s) you would like to discuss on our Thursday night net on 146.76 MHz at 8 P.M. If the time is inconvenient, let us know that too. I'll certainly share your thoughts with the entire Board of Trustees.

Probably the only down side of being LEARA president so many
(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.

LEARA is an **ARRL**-affiliated club. When you join **ARRL** or renew your membership, **LEARA** benefits monetarily if you do so through the Club. Send **ARRL** applications/renewals to the club treasurer (Dave Foran/WB8APD, 5439 Nan Linn Dr, Willoughby OH 44094-4365). Payment (check or money order) must be made out to **LEARA (NOT ARRL)**.

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.

de W2THU (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

times is to figure out what I am going to say in this column 11 times per year. However, in May, I always know that I am going to save a paragraph to encourage all of you to attend the greatest ham radio show on earth. I call it ham radio heaven. Eric, N8AUC says if ham radio were a religion then going to the Dayton Hamvention® is like going to Mecca. You've got to go at least once in your life. And we are lucky to live only a few hours drive from Dayton. Heck, my good friend Lars, SMOOY, is coming all the way from Sweden this year. Clevelanders live close enough that some folks drive down and back in one day and still have plenty of time to explore the huge flea market, the acres of indoor exhibits and catch a seminar or two from the dozens of amateur radio related topics.

As your ARRL assistant section manager for northeast Ohio, I would be derelict in my duties not to remind you that the ARRL National Convention coincides with the Hamvention® this year. This means that there will be many more ARRL activities to enjoy including the ARRL Expo 2005 area consisting of videos, exhibits, demonstrations and lectures on many areas of interest to hams. Check out the following URL for more information: www.arrl.org/expo.

How many of you read the review of a new software defined radio (SDR) in the April 2005 QST? This is something really big in communications. We knew it was coming and the reviewer calls it a work in progress. Basically, it is a transceiver (or it could be just a receiver for non hams) that works through your computer's sound card in order to program many parameters including filtering, digital signal processing, etc. It also allows you to choose the type of meter display you want, whether you want to measure average or peak output power and so much more. I feel like this is the biggest thing in ham radio since the early 1950s when single sideband was introduced. You can redefine the radio simply by changing the software. And the radio keeps evolving as you download the latest version of the software from the manufacturer, or you can write your own since the source code is provided to the buyer along with the radio. I have read several testimonials where hams agree that this type of radio brings the fun back to amateur radio. There are even discussion groups on the internet and there will be forums and exhibits at Dayton concerning SDR. I'm sure that some day we will all have an SDR radio in our shack.

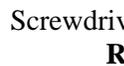
Well, I hope to see you in Dayton first, then at Dimitri's for another great program at our dinner meeting.

73, Bob Winston W2THU

April Door Prize Winners



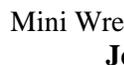
Free Dinner
Carmen Labatto, WB8SDA



Screwdriver Set
Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ



Wrench Set
Don Wade, W8DEA
(Our guest speaker)



Mini Wrench Set
Jess Noeth, KD8ACJ



Screwdriver Set
Bob Winston, W2THU



Punch Pliers
Howard Hunter, N8CXA



10" ChannelLocks
Lori Garvas, KC8MYE



50/50 raffle (\$25 cash):
David Noeth, KD8ACO



Don Wade, W8DEA, April's Guest Speaker

April Meeting Recap

Don Wade, W8DEA, gave a great presentation at LEARA's April general meeting. It was like opening a window into the lifestyle of a disaster worker, and into the disrupted lives of disaster victims.

He told us how his history as a radio operator in the Navy combined with his knowledge of amateur radio and participation in the civil air patrol have opened the doors to jobs for him, including being hired on as one of a select group of paid FEMA employees during Florida's disastrous hurricane season of 2004.



To give an idea of the destructive force of the hurricanes:

- They generated waves just a little short of Tsunami proportions; the wave that Ivan pushed inland was 53 feet tall! Inland, it was still 12 feet tall.
- Roofs were blown off, and some structures were completely obliterated.
- In some cases there were tornadic winds which carried small craft to inland marshes, from which they cannot be retrieved for fear of further damaging the environment.
- In one house whose façade looked undamaged, the owner received a rude awakening when he opened the door to discover that a 40-foot boat had been pushed through the kitchen and down the hall, to come to rest just a few feet from the front door.
- It took an estimated \$40 million just to take sand off the streets and put it back on the beaches.

Don's primary job was to do damage assessment, and as things progressed, to offer food & water, and last, to move victims into temporary housing as it was identified and/or erected. When the teams first arrived on site, cell phones didn't work, so ham radio came in handy. Don used a very

versatile Yaesu VX-150 for this purpose, since it is convertible for use on MARS and government bands as well as ham radio. He was able to talk with folks from FEMA, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry, since many of the folks from those organizations were also hams. There was a 44,000-lb Mobile Radio Vehicle to support the initial efforts. It had satellite on board, with self-contained power for FEMA mobile response. It has a 300-operator capacity, but it was not very comfortable—operators have to stand on steel plate the whole time.

Once portable cell phone towers were erected, most of the communication switched over to cell phones. A 2005 Ford Windstar served as a mobile office. Don's group worked with 60 men and 5 women from the Florida Department of Human Resources to assist victims. Several among the total volunteer base of 1,000 workers were bi- or multi-lingual, which is a good thing, because the area of Florida that Don served in is quite a melting pot; there were Vietnamese, Chinese, and German speakers. Of the 1,000 volunteers, only 3 could speak Vietnamese, so they were much in demand to help with translating for the foreign wives of U.S. servicemen.

Depending on the severity of damage, some victims qualified for 90-day trailers, and others qualified for mobile homes in which they could stay for up to 18 months. The melting pot sometimes came to a boil as victims of varying backgrounds (and with varying musical tastes) took shelter in crowded mobile home parks. They had to learn to get along. As one example, Don mentioned three single mothers of varying races who ended up living next to each other in a mobile home park, but only one had a car to do shopping.

Some of the hazards that workers faced were displaced alligators, snakes, and rural hurricane victims who value their privacy, are prepared defend it with a .30-06, and take a dim view of anyone wearing a government badge, no matter how desperate their situation.

Of course, the victims themselves had many, many obstacles to face, and some were generated by petty squabbles between the counties and the electric companies over who would get paid & when. In one case an electric company turned off the power to a mobile home park just a short while after a young family moved in. The mother was very concerned that Human Services of Florida would take away her children because of the "sub-standard" conditions, so she insisted on moving again to someplace with electricity.

Space and Ham Radio—Part Five

de Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

This month we will discuss linear transponder satellite communications. Linear transponders utilize SSB and CW as the operating mode instead of FM. This allows more than one contact to happen at the same time. In some cases there is very little difference in the content of an exchange on linear transponders than what you would find on, say, 20 meters. For example, I have been able to contact FM0HN in Martinique on a linear transponder satellite.

Currently there are “one and a half” transponder satellites. There is FO-29, launched in 1996 by hams in Japan, which is the “one” satellite. It receives signals between 145.900 and 146.000 and retransmits them on 435.900 to 435.800. Notice that the downlink signals are listed in descending order. That is because the transponder is inverting. Signals received on 145.910 are retransmitted on 435.890. Signals received on 145.990 are retransmitted on 435.810. For linear transponders, the range of frequencies used is called its “passband”.

Inverting linear transponders present some new challenges. Because the transponders on FO-29 are inverting, the sideband used to transmit voice changes. The transmitting station sends voice signals using LSB (lower side band). The transponder receives the signal and transmits the voice communication using USB (upper side band). Another change comes into play because of the Doppler effect.

Imagine listening to voice transmissions on 20 meters, then having your radio slowly drift downward. Doppler causes this same effect on linear transponders. The satellite in orbit is moving fast enough, combined with the frequency of the downlink, to change the signal's frequency at the Earth station receiver about 10 KHz through the pass (from +5 KHz at the beginning of the pass to -5 KHz at the end of the pass). If the pass is directly overhead, the shift could be +10 to -10 KHz.

Using CW to demonstrate, send a signal up to the satellite at 145.910. Assuming the pass is just starting, the signal will actually be received around 435.895 and not 435.890. The actual frequency to set the receiver will depend on many factors related to the path of the orbit with respect to the location of the Earth station. As time passes and the satellite moves toward and past the Earth station, the signal tone will noticeably decrease until the tone drops out of the audible range.

The way to carry out a QSO is to hold the transmitting frequency in place while you are sending and change the re-

ceive frequency. By holding your transmit frequency in place, you will not “drift” into another QSO. While you are sending, the receiving station will track the signal down the passband by occasionally retuning their receiver. Once you finish your transmission, the other station will begin sending. You will then adjust your receiver to find the other station's signal. Since the exchange of information is not generally longer than a minute, you generally will not have to change much to track the signal.

If you are using one of the computer prediction programs, many have the capability to control your radio to adjust for Doppler. In this case, it doesn't eliminate the effects of Doppler, but makes it apparently invisible. It changes both the transmit and receive frequency for you. However, with practice, you can easily work another station without relying on computer control.

The “half” satellite I referred to in the beginning of this article is AO-7. Launched in 1974, it's batteries died in 1981. In 2002, one of the shorted batteries “opened up”, allowing the satellite to operate using only solar panels. AO-7 is open for use when it is out of the shadow of the Earth. AO-7 has 2 transponders. Mode A operation uses a non-inverting transponder receiving 14.850 to 145.950 and transmitting on 29.400 to 29.500. Mode B operation uses an inverting transponder receiving at 432.125 to 432.175 and transmitting on 149.975 to 145.925. That fact that the satellite is able to work is a tribute to the skills of its builders; all of who were hams. Not many commercial satellites work 30 years later!

Because the satellite controller shuts down as solar power goes down, there is no sure way to know which mode is active. It seems to prefer Mode B, but look for signals from the satellite to be sure. Currently there appears to be what sounds like a distorted RTTY in the middle of the passband when it is in Mode B. CW is the preferred mode for AO-7, as voice signals sometimes sound distorted. I have been able to hear my signal with as little as 5W out, so power is not a big issue. Also, the uplink passband is within the weak signal portion of the 70cm band. Power should be kept to a minimum so as not to interfere with weak signal activities.

HAMSAT (a.k.a. VUSAT) is scheduled to be launched May 5th with 2 linear transponders. One was built by Indian hams and one by a Dutch ham. With any luck, the satellite will be operational by the time you read this. The much-anticipated P3E satellite from AMSAT-DE (Germany) is looking forward to possibly a launch date

(Continued on page 7)

Repeater ABC's—part 6 of a series

de Eric Jessen, N8AUC

How to Handle Malicious Interference

It has been said, that into everyone's life a little rain must fall. This certainly applies to repeater users! The cause of that "rain", is the nefarious creature known as the "repeater bozo". You may have heard a representative from this sub-human species on the air. Sometimes the bozo has a license, and sometimes the bozo doesn't.

What does a repeater bozo do? Here's a list: Making prank 911 phone calls using the repeater autopatch; Breaking into existing conversations with swearing, cursing and other unacceptable language; Causing deliberate interference to nets, public service events, and other legitimate amateur radio activities; Bringing down the repeater autopatch when a legitimate user tries to access it; Threatening and/or taunting and/or insulting other repeater users; Kerchunking the repeater over and over, while never identifying.

Note that this list is certainly not all-inclusive, but a representative sample of some of the stupid stunts that typical repeater bozos have been observed to do.

Why do they do things like this? No one knows for sure. Perhaps they were dropped on their head when they were very young? Most likely, they are looking for attention. They want recognition for their actions, and they really enjoy knowing that they are bothering someone. Chances are, that if you ever met one of these people in person, they would be unable to look you in the eye. Why? Because they lack the guts to admit who they are. How do we know this? Because they never identify themselves over the air. They have to hide behind the anonymity of a microphone.

For some bozos, perhaps it's the thrill of doing something illegal thinking that they will never be caught.

Here's a newsflash! What do you think foxhunters do? Why do you think hams practice foxhunting? Why, it's to find hidden transmitters! And when you find the hidden transmitter what happens? You discover who is operating it. When not practicing, or engaged in the sport of it, good foxhunters operate in what is known as "stealth mode". They're out hunting, and the fox doesn't know he's being hunted, because the foxhunters do not announce their presence, and they never transmit. 99.9% of the time, the fox doesn't even know he's been identified. When the fox is discovered, the identity of the fox is quietly turned over to the license trustee of the affected repeater. At that point, all that remains is to allow them to continue their activities for a

while, with the recorders running. It's called evidence gathering. Once sufficient evidence has been gathered, the whole thing is turned over to the FCC. The FCC then issues a written notice to the bozo, and a written response to the FCC from the bozo is required within 30 days. Failure to respond guarantees a phone call from the FCC in Gettysburg. Failure to comply with the phone conversation usually earns a visit. When they come to visit, the FCC brings with them the United States Marshals, and the full weight and authority of the United States Government. Remember the FCC rules we are governed by are Federal Laws, and are printed as Part 97 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations. A first offense usually carries an \$8,000 fine. A second offense usually carries a minimum \$10,000 fine and can include up to a 2 year sentence in a federal prison. How many of these people get caught? Eventually, they all do.

If you are affected by one of these bozos, what should you do? How should you handle it?

If you're like most people, you just want to tell this jerk off! If you found him, you'd want to bop the guy right on the nose. Both of those actions are wrong. Don't do it.

Why? Remember, there is a significant chance that the bozo doesn't have a license. It is illegal for you as a licensed ham to communicate with an unlicensed station on an amateur frequency. In fact, it's just as illegal as what the bozo is doing. Why shouldn't you bop the guy? It's called assault, and that's illegal too. No one would argue that he didn't deserve it, but why make a criminal of yourself in the process?

Also remember, the bozo is looking for recognition, satisfaction of some kind. How do you get rid of a bozo? Deny him that which he is seeking. Ignore him! Pretend he is not there. Make him think that his radio is broken! Continue your conversation as if nothing is going on. This is difficult sometimes, and requires a fair amount of self-discipline, but it is the absolute right thing to do. If the bozo isn't getting any recognition that he is having an effect, he isn't getting what he wants out of this deal, and he will eventually go away. If he doesn't figure this out on his own, then he's dumber than he sounds, which is usually the case anyway.

If by chance you can hear the bozo on the repeater input frequency, then YOU can make a REAL difference. Write down your exact location, the time and date, how strong the received signal was, as well as the type of receiver and antenna you are using. If you are at a fixed station and you

(Continued on page 7)

Repeater ABC's—cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

have a directional antenna, try and determine the bearing from your location to the bozo. Forward all this information quietly to the license trustee of the repeater. Do not under any circumstances inform the bozo (or anyone else) that you are doing this. Believe it or not, early in the process of the search, we actually want this moron to continue his activity. We want him to believe that he will never be caught. After enough of these reports have been received, the initial starting points can be determined and passed on to the foxhunters. This saves the foxhunters a lot of time on the front end of the hunt, and makes it much easier to find the bozo. Just a side note here, if three fixed stations with directional antennas can determine the bearing to the bozo at the same time, then the location of the bozo is pretty much nailed down to within less than a square mile. It's called triangulation, and it's extremely effective.

In conclusion, when you hear a repeater bozo:

Ignore him. Pretend he is not there. Make him think his radio is broken. Under no circumstances are you to communicate with the bozo.

Check the repeater input. If you can hear the bozo, write down your exact location, the time and date, how strong the signal was, what type of receiver and antenna you are using, and a bearing to the bozo if you are at a fixed station with a directional antenna, and pass this information quietly to the license trustee of the affected repeater.

By working together like this, we can make the career of a repeater bozo both miserable, and short!

And that's the way we ALL like it.

Hope to catch you on the air! 73!

Welcome to the Club

LEARA proudly welcomes the following ham who recently joined (or rejoined) LEARA and who has been formally approved by the LEARA Trustees.

Gary Morgan, KD8BHS

Please make him welcome when you hear him on the air!

Space and Ham Radio—cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

early next year. This satellite is planned to have an elliptical high altitude orbit, which allows for longer pass times covering more of the surface of the Earth. Past satellites using high altitude elliptical orbits (AO-40 as an example) allowed for DX contacts as about half of the surface of the Earth was within the footprint (area where the satellite can be heard).

AMSAT-NA (North America) is also working on an elliptical satellite called "Eagle". Fundraising is currently going on to raise enough money to build and launch Eagle. See the AMSAT website for the details on the project. The project needs to raise about \$600K, of which about \$25K has been raised. If you happen to pass by the AMSAT booth at Dayton this year, please make a donation to help launch Eagle.

Field Day 2005

de Steve Kinosh, KB8UTA

Its that time of the year again. FIELD DAY!

Once again, we will be operating from Gordon Park, just east of Martin Luther King Blvd. Setup will begin at 9AM on Saturday, June 25. We will be operating with the call sign WB8CQR. designation 3 Alpha, Battery. For those of you not familiar with field day operations, this means that we will have 3 stations operating on HF at 150 watts (maximum) power, battery operation. This will give us 1 CW and 2 phone stations. We will also have a Get On The Air station for those of you that haven't operated in a while or for operating on frequencies outside your license. We will also have a VHF/UHF station on 6 meters, 2 meters and 440. The VHF/UHF helps toward our score but doesn't count as another transmitter.

If you are planning to stay over, bring a tent and your favorite sleeping bag. There may be extra room in a tent or two, but why risk missing the fun. Once again, LEARA will provide all the food, but if you have dietary restrictions, we ask that you supply your own foods. Also, if you are planning to spend time with us, even if you are not staying the night, we are asking that everyone bring a 12 pack of their favorite non-alcoholic beverage, and a bag of ice. We are planning for a hot day, and we will have enough coolers, but ice is always welcome.

Even if its only for an hour of two, come on down and join us. As Eric would say, " Be there or be square!"

Antenna Strategies for Space Communications

de Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

If you are considering assembling a station capable of working satellites, the antenna is the piece of equipment that “touches” the satellite. Here are some strategies I employed as well as others that have been used by other hams for fixed VHF/UHF operations:

1. Not Recommended: Vertical antennas. Verticals are designed for a low angle of radiation. Verticals with gain actually make it worse for space communications, as the radiation pattern tends to squeeze more signals lower to the horizon.
2. Fair Results: Omnidirectional Dipoles. Crossed horizontal dipoles over a ground plane bend the pattern upward. While there is not a significant gain in receiving the signals, there is now the capability to receive signals overhead. Loop antennas, such as the M2 eggbeaters, also are omnidirectional. Quadrifilar Helix Antennas can be built and offer some gain. See the ARRL Handbook and Antenna Book, as well as AMSAT (www.amsat.org) for ideas.
3. Better Than Fair: Portable Beams (“Arrow” antenna). This is what I first started with. I set up a station on a picnic table in the back yard with an Arrow on a camera tripod. I made my first satellite contacts on FO-29 using this method.
4. Good Results: I purchased a pair of small beams from the local toy store in Wickliffe recently. Using a method borrowed from W0EEC (www.planetemily.com), these antennas are mounted on PVC piping and angled upward 30 degrees. I pointed this array nominally eastward and can receive all passes from 5 degrees to about 160 degrees azimuth (horizontal) and 5 degrees to almost 90 degrees elevation. Because the antenna patterns have 3 db limits in both the horizontal and vertical patterns, it does not need to be rotated to point up or down. Most passes will stay in the antennas’ 3 dB vertical limits.
5. Better Results: Mount the above antennas on a rotator. As the weather allows, I will mount these antennas on a rotator on my antenna stand. It’s not necessary to use computer control on the rotator using tracking programs. The beamwidths are wide enough to allow occasional manual adjustments to keep the signal strong.
6. Best Results: Circularly Polarized Antennas on a Rotator. Since the satellite signals generally have circular polarity, circularly polarized antennas prevent the deep QSB that occurs as the signal’s polarity changes with respect to your antenna. If you decide to work the PACSATs (“PACket SATellites”), digital signal reception requires higher-grade antennas with circular polari-

zation.

Recommended for all antennas is a mast-mounted preamplifier to help pull out the signals better. Also recommended is a desensing filter to prevent transmitted signals from interfering with your ability to hear your downlink signal. Use coax designed for VHF/UHF work. Standard RG-58 and even some versions of RG-8 will attenuate your signal more than half, increasing attenuation with increased cable lengths and frequency.

Westlake Soccer—2005

de Eric Jessen, N8AUC

In Westlake, Ohio, the local hotel and restaurant owners absolutely love Memorial Day weekend. In fact, hotel rooms are as scarce in Westlake over Memorial Day as they are in Dayton for Hamvention!

Why would this be, you ask?

Because every year over Memorial Day weekend, the Westlake Soccer Association (a non-profit organization dedicated to youth sports) hosts the annual Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament. This event draws almost two hundred youth soccer teams, and their parents to Westlake from a four state area. This year will be no different. The level of play runs from age 8 and under (aww, aren’t they cute) to 14 and under (geez those kids are good), with separate divisions for girls and boys. Some teams are co-ed, but those are pretty rare.

LEARA provides communications support for the tournament. There will be over 1,500 children, with their parents in tow, scattered across 20 soccer fields at four sites in Westlake. Keeping track of everything, ensuring that injured players receive medical attention, keeping an eye on the weather, finding lost referees, and tracking game scores are just some of the things we do in support of the tournament.

In order to pull this off, we need YOUR help! Games run from 8AM through 6:30PM on Saturday May 28, and Sunday May 29, 2005. You don’t need to be there the whole time, in fact most people come out for a few hours and then go home. Some people are real sports lovers, and stay for an entire day. Then there are the genuine loonies (like me) who are there for the whole tournament! Sound like a good time? Well, it is! If you’re interested in helping out with one of LEARA’s largest public service events (only Skywarn is bigger), **contact Eric, N8AUC at 440-734-3146.**

Upcoming Events

May

20-22 DAYTON Hamvention & ARRL Convention

<http://www.hamvention.org>
 Contact: Hamvention
 PO Box 964
 Dayton, OH 45401
 Phone: 937-276-6930
 Email: info@hamvention.org

22 Cleveland Marathon

<http://www.clevelandmarathon.com>
 Contact: Jon McKenzie, KB9FEM
 Email: jmckenzie@cuycoares.org

28-29 Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament

<http://wist.westlakesoccer.org>
 Contact: Eric Jessen, N8AUC
 Phone: 440-734-3146
 Email: n8auc@leara.org

June

25-26 ARRL Field Day

<http://www.arrl.org/>
 Cleveland Lakefront State Park
 Contact: Eric Jessen, N8AUC
 Email: n8auc@leara.org

July

17 Skybank Triathlon

<http://www.pacificsportsllc.com>
 Contact: Tom Kimball, KA8BZB
 Email: tomkimball@att.net

31 Portage County Hamfest

Portage County Fairgrounds
 Randolph, Ohio
<http://www.parc.portage.oh.us>
 Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ3O
 9971 Diagonal Road
 Mantua, OH 44255
 Phone: 330-274-8240
 Fax: 330-274-8527
 Email: ljsolak@apk.net

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
6/4	Kirtland	7/30	Bentleyville
6/7	Cuyahoga Falls		
6/19	Elyria	8/2	Akron, Pioneer
		8/6	Kirtland
7/9	Akron, Red Cross	8/21	Elyria
7/10	Independence		
7/17	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

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, 330-563-3328, n8zb@yahoo.com

Cuyahoga Falls - 3512 Darrow Rd., Stow, OH 44224. Test at 7:00 PM, walk-ins allowed. **Contact:** Bruce M. Ferry, 330-929-2766.

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

Kirtland - Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094. Testing at 12:00 PM, Walk-ins are welcome. **Contact:** Scott Farnham, 440-256-0320.

**** 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 \$14.00. Check with the contact person in advance for specific testing site requirements and any special test accommodations needed.