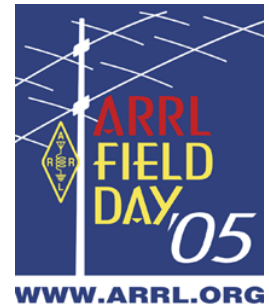




# The Spirit of '76 and '88



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## Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

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Editor: Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

### June Meeting—Saturday, June 25, 2005

# *Field Day!!*

Please make plans to join us for the 2005 edition of ARRL Field Day. LEARA will once again be participating in Field Day at Cleveland Lakefront State Park, located off Interstate 90, just north of the Martin Luther King Blvd. Interchange, at 8701 Lakeshore Blvd. Detailed directions and a map are provided elsewhere in this issue.

Field Day presents us with a variety of opportunities, from contesting to emergency preparedness training, to introducing new people to amateur radio. LEARA's Field Day is a relaxed, casual atmosphere where visitors are encouraged to take part in the operation, and dinner and snacks are as important as bonus points and multipliers.

Speaking of dinner, the June dinner meeting will be held at the Field Day site, at 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 25th. The menu will be a surprise this year, but the Field Day committee promises that nobody will be disappointed. Because the meeting site is located in a state park, alcoholic beverages are prohibited. The Field Day committee would like to ask that anyone who can, help out by bringing along a bag of ice or a six pack of soda.

Reservations for the June meeting are not required, and dinner is provided courtesy of the association. That's right—FREE FOOD!

Set up for Field Day begins at 9 AM on Saturday, the 26th. The contest begins at 2PM local time, and runs until 2PM on Sunday. This year, LEARA will be participating at classification 3A battery, meaning 3 transmitters, club station, battery powered. You'd be surprised how much 'air time' can be gotten from a deep cycle marine battery!

As Eric likes to say, there are two 'holy days' for amateur radio. Even if you missed out on the first one, at Dayton, please don't miss the opportunity to come out and play radio with us at Field Day!

May, 2005

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*Another successful WIST outing, thanks to LEARA! See page 6 for the WIST report.*

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**TRUSTEES EMERITUS**

<b>Al Amster, W8HYG</b>	<b>Al Severson, AB8P (SK)</b>
<b>Fred Collins, W8ADW (SK)</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

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

**Editor:**

Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

E-mail: editor@leara.org

*de W2THU...*

Our May meeting was well attended even though it took place the last day of the month and right after Memorial Day, which made a lot of folks who were returning to work feel like it was only Monday. Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ brought in some Drake, Swan and other 1960s style SSB transceivers that he had reconditioned. For some it was a trip down memory lane while newer hams got to see some real fine tube gear close up. Thanks to Jeff for a very interesting program.



As you probably know by now, one of our two living Trustees Emeriti, Fred Collins, W8ADW has passed away after a long illness. Fred was extremely active in our great hobby. When I joined LEARA in the 1970s he was a Board member and former officer. He also came to all of the QCWA Cleveland Chapter 1 meetings where he was a past president and he always checked into their weekly nets as well as many other VHF and HF nets around the country. Fred was especially proud of keeping the USS Cod submarine on the air. I knew W8ADW best through his support of the Rain Forest station and the ham radio on the USS Mather. He was also very active in the West Park Kiwanis, where he organized amateurs to provide communications for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, and his Cleveland ward where he was active in the democratic party. We will miss Fred's smile and firm handshake at our club gatherings. We used to joke that Fred's XYL Flossie always won the free din-

*(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)

ner at Dimitri's. Flossie, you are always welcome! Fred's passing leaves a great void in the Cleveland amateur radio community and he will be missed.

In last month's column I urged you to join me, my good friend Lars, SM00Y, and many other area hams on our annual trek to the Dayton Hamvention®. If you missed it, then let me tell you our experience. First, the weather was the best in many years. It was warm and there was very little rain over the three days. The flea market had more vacant spaces than last year and a notable local vendor that usually sets up in a very large tent was missing. However, this is still the largest ham radio flea market in the world and we were not disappointed. Some stuff that seems to be dwindling in the flea market are vacuum tubes, test equipment and illegal satellite and cable decoder boxes.

The inside commercial vendors were all there except for the surplus company from Omaha that had always taken a lot of space just outside of the main arena. The big attraction was the very large area in the Ballarena where the ARRL set up its Expo 2005 in celebration of the ARRL National Convention. The goal was to bring Newington to Dayton and they did a terrific job. One of the favorite exhibits was a booth where you could have your picture on the cover of QST. Every aspect of the League was featured at the Expo and over 900 hams joined the ARRL over the Hamvention® weekend.

I attended the seminar on the software defined radio which I mentioned in my May column. The owner of the company which is manufacturing the radios explained the theory and referred us to 4 articles he had written for QEX magazine back in 2002. So, the technology is not so new and both the hardware and the software have evolved over the past three years. Between the quality sound card that you must install in your computer and the SDR transceiver you can expect to spend at least \$1,000.00 to get on the air with just 1 watt! But, what a sweet radio you will have.

Don't forget that our June club meeting will be deferred to Field Day weekend. Please join us at Cleveland Lakefront Park where LEARA will be participating in the largest annual publicity stunt in all of ham radio. This is where hams show the world how we can communicate in an emergency without benefit of commercial power, the internet, cell phones or any infrastructure at all. And, you get to be outdoors with a beautiful view of Lake Erie.

73 de Bob Winston W2THU

## May Door Prize Winners



Free Dinner

**Bryan Torok, N8OOF**

Callsign Plaque

**Jeanne St. Marie, KC8MNW**



Screwdriver Set

**Bill Patrick, KB8WIB**

Screwdriver Set

**Lori Garvas, KC8MYE**



Soldering Iron

**Cliff Bade, W8CJB**

Soldering Tools

**David Noeth, KD8ACO**



Digital Meter

**Bryan Torok, N8OOF**

Caller ID Box

**John Gibbons, K8BGV**

RL Drake History Book

**Jeanne St. Marie, KC8MNW**



50/50 raffle :

**Fred Niehaus, N8CPI**

## May Meeting Recap

May's featured guest speaker, Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, is no stranger to LEARA, and has provided numerous educational and entertaining talks for our meetings in the past. May's dinner meeting was no exception to the rule. Jeff brought in several older pieces of radio gear to show, and discussed the care, feeding, and refurbishment of older gear. Jeff has personally reconstructed several pieces of 1970's vintage amateur equipment, and was kind enough to offer several pointers to those who would be interested in doing the same.



*Jeff, WA8SAJ, introducing the audience to the innards of a Heathkit transceiver*

The high point of the evening came when Jeff suggested, to the amazement of all, that some of the older rigs were best cleaned in the driveway, with a garden hose. Everyone was somewhat taken aback, until Jeff explained that not only would he remove all tubes and other removable components, he would allow SEVERAL days for the interior of the radio to dry before attempting to bring it back online.



*One of Jeff's latest projects—a piece of vintage Collins gear, on the*

Jeff also pointed out that the best way to bring an old piece of gear out of retirement, for those who are considering it, is by increasing the input voltage slowly, using a variac, a few dozen volts at a time. Most older rigs, Jeff says, suffer from deterioration of filter capacitors and putting 120v (or more, in the case of outboard power supplies) into such old devices can cause catastrophic failure. Better to be safe than sorry!

All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening, with good food, good fellowship, and a great topic by a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. Thanks to Jeff for another fabulous talk!

## LEARA Bids Farewell to a Good Friend

Fred was the definition of "a class act", he was a gentleman's gentleman. Always ready, willing, and able to help out, or lend a hand when needed. You always liked being around Fred, because he also had a certain genuine glow about him, a positive, uplifting attitude that always shone through.

Fred held his beliefs dearly, and you always knew where he stood on things. But he also let you hold yours just as dearly. And I never knew him to let it get in the way of a good friendship, or a good time.

A few years ago, Fred was referred to as Mr. Ambassador. That's a pretty good description, I think. Whenever new people would show up at a LEARA meeting, he would make it a point to introduce himself, and make the newcomer feel welcome.

Fred led by example. And if you didn't get it, he'd give you time and space to figure it out. Even if you needed to think it really was YOUR idea, that was OK with him. He left behind many lessons that we would all do well to learn.

To those who knew him, Fred will be sorely missed. Those who didn't will never know, or be able to appreciate, what they missed. I consider myself blessed to have known him.

-de Eric, N8AUC

# Fred Collins, W8ADW

## 1925—2005



*W8ADW at the operating position of the USS COD, one of his favorite places to play radio.*

I met Fred at the first LEARA meeting I went to. I walked into a room where I knew no one and found an empty seat. A gentleman with a great smile and a firm handshake was seated next to me. It was Fred. He promptly introduced himself and everyone at the table. He would make you feel at home and part of the gang. A true gentleman, and the spirit of ham radio.

Fred, you will be missed.

-de Steve, KB8UTA

I considered W8ADW a man of class I have known Fred in a way as displayed to all Elmer and friend, when I first came to the club in search of a home I was welcome with open arms by all and W8ADW was right there in the midst of all that involved radio and Amateur Radio. Fred not only shared life stories with me but I would look forward to the next time I would see him and always felt welcome, often Fred would stop by my home or invite me to his and the visit was always pleasant.

For those of you that did not know Fred was the first Black in commercial radio in the city of Cleveland.

Fred was also instrumental in the first Amateur radio station at the Karamu House in the city of Cleveland.

Oh yes:

Fred Collins / FAA

Fred Collins / Navy

Fred Collins / Cleveland Rainforest

Fred Collins / U. S. S. COD

Fred Collins / U. S. S. Mather location downtown port of Cleveland

-de John, KC8FOC

## Westlake Soccer Recap

*de Eric Jessen, N8AUC*

Saturday morning.....May 28.....Westlake, Ohio.....192 youth soccer teams converge for the annual Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament. And LEARA is there!

This year, LEARA again provided communications for the annual Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament. Saturday started out uneventfully, with the first games kicking off at 8AM. The weather was good, and we weren't getting snowed on. No one was getting hurt, it was looking like we'd have an pleasant and uneventful weekend.

Then, at about 1:30 PM, the skies began to darken. Several area hams called in on the net frequency to warn us that a line of thunderstorms was approaching from the west. These storms were producing significant lightning. At 1:55PM lightning was sighted at tournament HQ, and the word went out (via amateur radio of course) to suspend play and clear the fields immediately. Within minutes all 20 fields at all 4 locations scattered around Westlake were cleared and the players were headed for shelter. Without the ham radio operations, this could not have happened as fast as it did. Luckily, the net effect of the weather was a delay of the game schedule by an hour, since the weather behind the initial line of storms was clear. It just made for a very long day for the hams.

Sunday went better weatherwise than Saturday did, but with the increased intensity of play in the playoff and championship rounds, our friends the paramedics from the Westlake Fire Department (whom we dispatch during the event) got busy, and had to make several runs to the various locations hosting the games. Fortunately, none of the injuries were serious except for one girl who was taken to St Johns by her parents with a knee injury.

To offer special recognition to those especially dedicated hams who work the entire event (all day – both days), we've started a very tongue-in-cheek special secret society called the UOWL (Unofficial Organization of Westlake Loonies). See the May issues of the LEARA newsletter to find out the origins of this. Working the entire tournament is a major commitment, and deserves some special recognition. This years' loonies are : Marv – W8AZO, Alex – WD8JMM, Jim – N8XDO, Eric – N8AUC.

The rest of our fine crew was:

Bill – N8XDM, Tom - KA8BZB, Sara - KC8KSU, Steve – N8TUA, Joe – KC8RAN, Jeff – K8JTK, Tom – W8ZIP, Dave – KD8ACO, Jessica – KD8ACJ, Steve – KB8UTA, Jay – KC8GHX, Bill – N8UPZ, John – KC8FOC, Jeannie –

KC8MNW, Bob – W2THU, Tim – KC8KTE, Don – KJ5KB, Bernie – KC8YJB, Tom – N8QXA, Tom – N8ETP, Jeanne – KC8TJH, Robin – KC8AWO, and Bryan – N8OOF who handled part of the repeater setup. (I don't think I missed anyone but if I did I apologize!)

Kudos and a tip of the hat to all the hams who did an outstanding job this year at WIST! Maybe next year some of these fine hams can join the ranks of the UOWL? Remember to reserve some time to help out at next years' Westlake

## Attention St Joseph Hams!

*de Mike Cegelski, K8EHP*

The St. Joseph High School Radio Club (SJHRC) class of 1960 (Yes, way back then) is looking to organize a reunion of members from that era. We're looking for members from not only 1960 but from years before and after that with no limits to time. No actual reunion plans have been firmed up yet so feel free to contact us or anyone you know who may be interested from that era. Please contact Mike K8EHP at k8ehp@earthlink.net or the twisted pair at (216) 252 - 6640.

73 and TNX, de Mike K8EHP!

P.S. Please feel free to print this notice in any newsletter or publication you decide. TNX.

## April Fox Hunt Results

*de Mike Cegelski, K8EHP*

First of all, many TNX to the nice folks who made this event possible: C.A.R.S. for the use of their 146.82 repeater and contributing one of the winning prizes and LEARA for providing the other winning prize. Let's not forget the fox Bryan N8OOF who did a great job disguising himself as a cute furry critter of the R.F. kind! Participants included: Gwynn W8JHL, Toby WT8O, Mike WB8UGT and Ted WD8CVH. The winner for time @ 58 minutes and 18 miles was Jim N8PXW. The winner for mileage @ 16 miles and 67 minutes was the team of Alex WD8JMM and Mike K8EHP! If you didn't come out you missed a super great time. It was top down weather for taking headings while still sitting in the car. We'll look for you all the next time which shouldn't be too far down the log.

73 and TNX, de Mike K8EHP!

## Volunteers Needed

*de Tom Kimball, KA8BZB*

This year's Skybank Triathlon will be held on Sunday morning July 17, 2004.

As in the past, ham volunteers are needed to provide observation and communications support for the event. The first wave of swimmers will be hitting the water at 6:45 a.m. off of the East Ninth Street Pier.

Cycling and running will all be done on the Shoreway between East Ninth Street and West Boulevard.

All competitors should be off the course by noon or so (roads need to be opened for traffic in time for the Indians Game). Details (including maps) can be found on the event web site at: <http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/ClevelandTriathlon/athlete6.htm>.

Current plans are to use the .88 repeater for the entire event. Hams will be meeting on the South Marginal Road near East 55th Street between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. We can accommodate late arrivals or early departures so please indicate any special constraints. Doughnut Holes will be provided (BYO Coffee) along with T-shirts and vehicle credentials to identify you as part of the event.

To volunteer, you may sign up at the June LEARA meeting at the field day site, send me an e-mail at [kaeightbzb@att.net](mailto:kaeightbzb@att.net), or give me a phone call at 216-371-2832 some evening.

Those interested in serving as net control, "maritime mobile", or as medical liaison (ambulance dispatch) should let me know (no guarantees but we'll try to accommodate as best we can). Ditto for any position preferences along the course.

## Welcome to the Club

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

**Richard B rock, N8RB**

**David Lay, KD8BMT**

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

## Looking Forward

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming LEARA activities.

**Saturday & Sunday, June 25 & 26** – Field Day! -See notices appearing elsewhere in this issue for details.

**Saturday, July 8** – Trustees' Meeting (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.

**Tuesday, July 26** – Picnic Meeting—July's meeting is an informal social event where burgers and dogs are the rule. The picnic again this year will be held at the Oak Grove Picnic Area of the Cleveland Metroparks System, in Brecksville. Please plan to join us this year, as the Program Chairperson has promised us a very special form of entertainment. Plans are in the works for an ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) session, where 'foxhunters' will be trying to locate a hidden transmitter within the confines of the Metroparks. Come on out, have some picnic food, some good conversation, and join the fun as we try to hunt down the fox!

**Tuesday, August 30**—Dinner Meeting at Dimitri's. See future issues for program details.

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!

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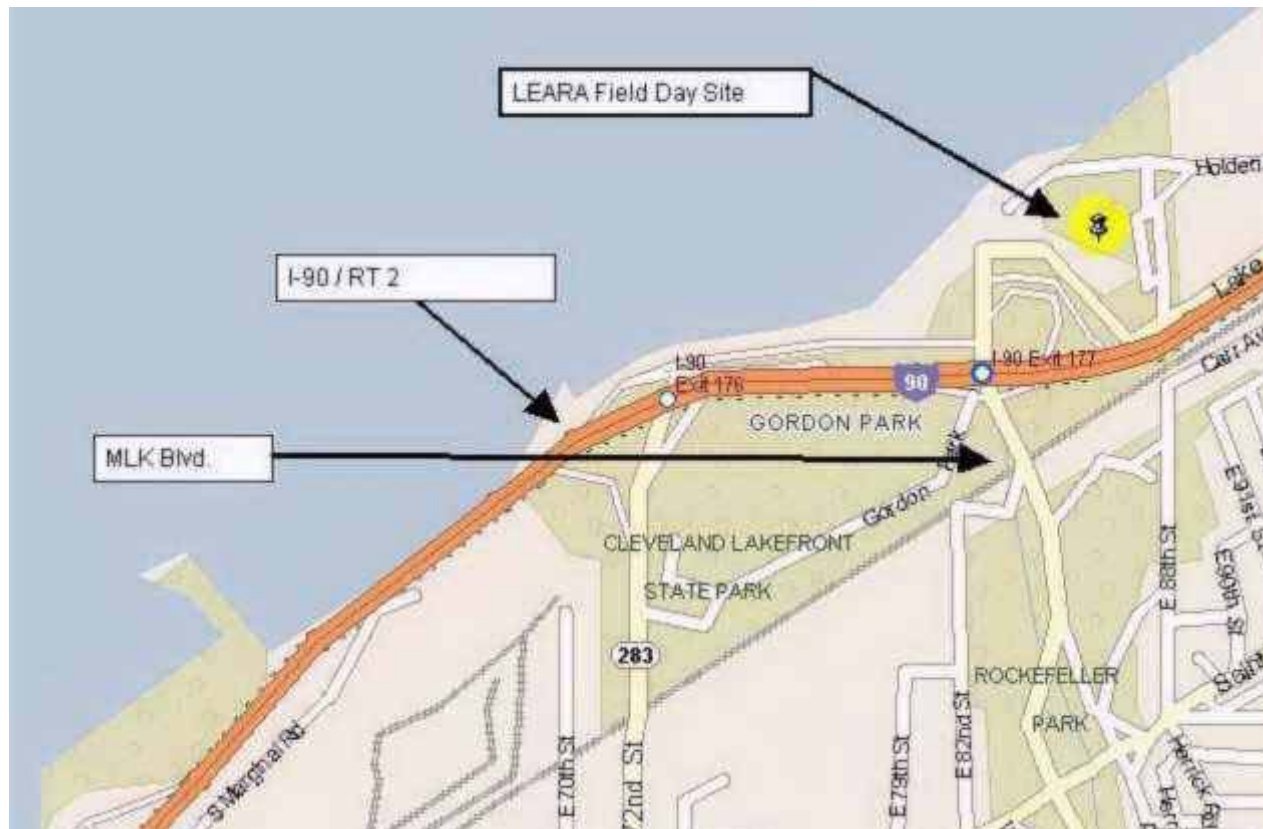
The letters are approximately 2 inches tall and the base is 10 inches in length.

Available for \$12.00 each.  
\$2.00 from each purchase  
will be donated to LEARA.  
These make an excellent gift.

Contact Jacob Kinosh at: 440-989-8170

or  
[KC8GHX@hotmail.com](mailto:KC8GHX@hotmail.com)

All orders placed by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 will be available for pickup at Field Day, June 25 - 26.



# LEARA Field Day - 2005

**Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th**

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2005 Field Day Site will be located inside the Ohio Cleveland Lakefront State Park which is just north of Interstate-90 at the Martin Luther King Boulevard interchange at 8701 Lake Shore Blvd. This is just west of the old Nike Missile Site and the Navy Finance Center and is also known as Upper Gordon Park.

This site is an Ohio State Park and our use during Field Day is not exclusive. Keep this in mind regarding language, noise and trash. Please be considerate.

## Directions from east or west

1. Take I-90 east or west to the Martin Luther King Blvd exit (exit 177).
2. Head north towards the lake.
3. Follow MLK over the freeway ramps (be careful the ramps have the right-of-way here) and around to the right.
4. There will be a sign on the left identifying the area as the Cleveland Lakefront State Park. The driveway will be on your left.
5. The site is just west of the Ranger Station.

**Talk in on the 146.880 repeater will begin at 8:00AM**



## Upcoming Events

### 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: kaeightbzb@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

### August

- 21 Warren Amateur Radio Association**  
<http://w8vtd.org/>  
 Talk-In: 146.970 (minus offset - no tone)  
 Contact: Richard E. Bell, KC8TAP  
 2918 Williamsburg Street NW  
 Warren, OH 44485  
 Phone: 330-898-6539  
 Email: kc8tap@neo.rr.com

### September

- 11 63rd Annual Findlay Radio Club Hamfest**  
 Findlay Radio Club  
<http://www.findlayradioclub.org>  
 Talk-In: 147.15; 444.15  
 Contact: Bill Kelsey, N8ET  
 3521 Spring Lake Drive  
 Findlay, OH 45840  
 Phone: 419-423-5643  
 Email: kanga@bright.net

## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
7/9	Akron, Red Cross	8/21	Elyria
7/10	Independence		
7/17	Elyria	9/6	Cuyahoga Falls
7/30	Bentleyville	9/11	Independence
		9/18	Elyria
8/2	Akron, Pioneer		
8/6	Kirtland		

**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.