



The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Interim Editor: Sara A. Cechner, KC8KSU
Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

This Month's Meeting — Tuesday, July 26, 2005

The Annual LEARA Picnic in the Park

In the Oak Grove Picnic Area of
Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation

Please join us for the annual LEARA Picnic in the Park on Tuesday July 26, 2005. This year's picnic will again be held at the Oak Grove Picnic Area of the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation.

This is a great opportunity to get together with fellow club members, their family, friends, and anyone else interested in attending to have a relaxed cookout in a wonderful secluded park setting.

As in previous years, Jeff Garvas, N8YNR will coordinate the menu offerings, which will include hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, watermelon, chips, condiments, and soft drinks. Those who wish to have an entrée not offered (i.e. veggie burgers, chicken, etc) may feel free to use the grill at the rate listed below.

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July, 2005

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LEARA's July Program — Amateur Radio Direction Finding Event

As hinted at in the June newsletter, ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) will be the "program" for the July picnic meeting. This is where ham 'foxhunters' will be trying to locate hidden transmitters within the confines of the Metroparks. There will be 4-6 QRP transmitters hidden in the park for hardy foxhunters to find on foot. We'll be operating on 2 M. This event uses some specialized equipment and/or techniques.

HT (with or without antenna, depending on signal strength)

However your HT shows signal strength, the more fine the gradations, the better. This helps you to home in on a weak signal and see when it is starting to get stronger. For instance, VX5Rs are great for this exercise.

Hand-held Beam Antenna

We will have several tape measure beams available with a loaner HT, or you can use your own. If your HT uses a non-standard connector, bring adapters.

Shielding (use of body or coffee can as attenuator)

This simple technique keeps a signal from flooding your HT as you get close to the "fox." Hold the HT, minus antenna, close to your body and turn until the signal gets weak—the fox will be behind you. A coffee can over the HT improves the effect. Of course if you're looking at your HT, you'll want to cut a view hole out of the coffee can.

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OFFICERS

President Bob Winston, W2THU	W2THU@leara.org 216-771-3314
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Vice President Bryan Torok, N8OOF	N8OOF@leara.org 440-871-5456
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TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Al Amster, W8HYG	Al Severson, AB8P (SK)
Fred Collins, W8ADW (SK)	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.

Interim Editor:

Sara Cechner, KC8KSU

E-mail: editor@leara.org

de W2THU . . .

I heard that 25well fed members braved the heat to attend our June meeting at Cleveland's Lakefront State Park on the shores of Lake Erie. I was in Ontario during this Field Day weekend where I was able to add some contest points to a few stateside and Canadian logs. Thanks to all of the folks who contributed to another successful LEARA Field Day operation which was so much fun for the participants.



As you have noticed, this month's edition of the *Spirit of 76 & 88* is a bit smaller than usual. We are looking for someone to edit the Newsletter to replace Alex, WD8JMM, who had done such a fine job of assembling this periodical. If you have the desire but are afraid to volunteer for lack of experience, we can still use you. You can learn as you go. The most important qualifications are the desire and the time commitment to get this job done. The pay is the good feeling you get when you complete each edition and admire your fine workmanship. Fringe benefits include one month off per year. Please contact me (w2thu@arrl.net) or any Trustee if you would like to volunteer for this very important and worthwhile position on your club team.

On behalf of the entire club, I want to thank Alex Manuk, WD8JMM for editing the Newsletter, volunteering his time for LEARA projects such as Field Day and being a member of the

(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.

2005 LEARA Picnic

Because this great location cannot be reserved in advance, volunteers are desperately needed to arrive early and help occupy the picnic area. Persons who have insulated coolers are also needed to pick up and transport ice to the picnic site. Please contact Jeff by phone at 216-552-4368 if you can help out.

Dinner will begin being served between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

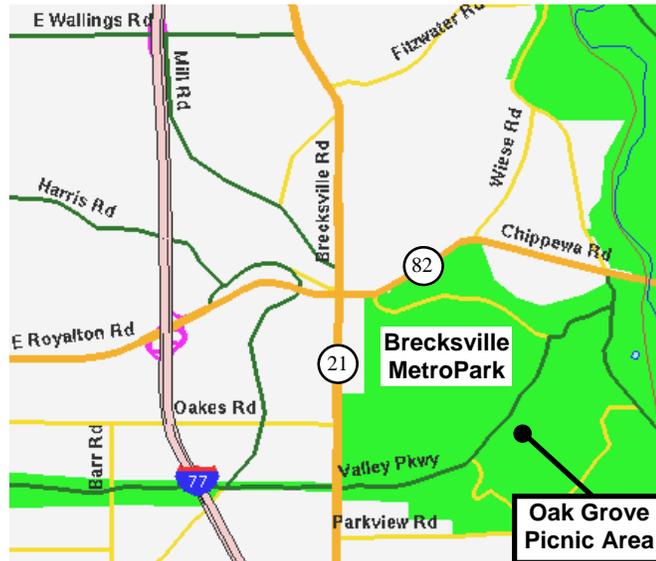
Reservations for the picnic are required by 12:00 Noon Monday, July 27. You may attend without making a reservation, however; you will be responsible for supplying your own dinner.

When making your reservation, please state how many children will be attending, along with their ages and whether they are a boy or girl. This is to help Lori, KC8MYE, in selecting appropriate door prizes for the youngsters.

Please call in your reservation to Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at **440-248-0031**.

Directions: Take I-77 to Rt. 82, Royalton Rd., and go east to Rt. 21, Brecksville Rd. Turn right (south) on Brecksville Rd. Go about 1.5 miles. The MetroParks entrance will be on your left. Once in the park, the Oak Grove Picnic area will be to your right. See the maps below.

(Note: Rt. 82 east of Brecksville Rd. is named Chippewa Rd.)



MENU OPTIONS	PRICE
Hamburgers and Hotdogs (all you can eat) - Includes unlimited side dishes and soft drinks.	\$7.00 / person **
Use of the grill (you supply the entrée) - Includes unlimited side dishes and soft drinks.	\$3.00 / person **
Use of the Grill - You supply everything.	\$1.00 / person **

** Kids under 12 years of age eat for free.

de W2THU (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

Board of Trustees and secretary of the association. Alex resigned for personal reasons.

Congratulations to Jacob Kinosh, KC8GHX who was appointed Trustee to serve the remainder of Alex's term. We are especially happy to have a Board member who is under the age of 30 to bring some new blood into our fine club.

As I write this column, Hurricane Dennis is approaching the Gulf Coast of Florida. This reminds us that we are right in the middle of the severe weather season. Fortunately, we have had no tornadoes in the area and we hope

they never come. Just the same, be prepared to assist the Skywarn program by listening on our own 146.76 repeater when the Skywarn net is up and running. Your report could be crucial and result in the saving of lives or property.

Our next meeting is one of my favorites and that is the July picnic in the Metroparks. Grilling out hamburgers and hot dogs in the lovely bucolic setting of this area's great natural resource plus the fellowship of amateur radio operators is always a pleasure. I look forward to seeing you there.

73 de Bob Winston W2THU

Association News

The June Meeting Recap

*de Eric Jessen, N8AUC
and Steve Kinosh KB8UTA*

The Big Picture (Eric)

June 28 and 29, 2005 saw LEARA's fifth annual Field Day at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park. Despite some challenges in the final week leading up to the event, and the very hot weather, the event came off very well.

This year we ran a 3A operation, with a VHF/UHF station. Our score was a respectable 2,062 points. This is a bit less than last year, because we missed out on a number of the bonuses we scored last year. But we did manage to put a club record 537 contacts in the log this year. There were 244 on CW, and 293 on phone.

Mike K8EHP and Rich N8RB ran the phone station, using an Icom 706MkIIG. They ran 100w to a big G5RV, using a deep cycle marine battery for power. These guys were like the Energizer bunny - they just kept going and going.

Gary WA8TJL was back for another whirl at CW. His Ten Tec Omni 6 and another G5RV did a great job on 40m CW all weekend. Gary's lovely wife Janet was very popular with a Mr. Coffee like device that ran on a gas stove - meaning no electricity required. And the lawn chair recliners she brought were so nice that people lined up for a chance to relax in the shade in one of those.

The Father and Son team of Steve KB8UTA and Jay KC8GHX handled the VHF/UHF station. They had enough aluminum in the air to really take advantage of a nice band opening on 6m SSB, and score 41 contacts on the magic band. A few 2m SSB openings helped add another 17 contacts from their Icom IC706 MkIIG. Sara, KC8KSU put in a significant amount of time on 6m SSB as a guest operator as well. Late Saturday night we thought someone sneaked in a generator to our all battery setup. But upon further investigation we found out it was just Steve who had passed out in front of the rig.

Eric N8AUC ran another CW station using his Yaesu FT-757GX and an 80m dipole suspended from the trees. Since Gary was covering 40m, Eric spent most of his time on 20m during the day, and 80m at night.

David KD8ACJ and Jessica KD8ACO were there on Saturday and were a huge help with setting up the stations and shelters. Jessica never did get in front of a rig to make a contact or two, but she had a whale of a good time at Field Day. I think Dad did, too.

John KC8FOC was there to handle the info booth and serve as tour guide. Several visitors stopped in the find out what was going on, and John handled his duties with his unique warmth and charm.

The club meeting Saturday evening was spiced up with a catered BBQ dinner brought in from Hoggy's. Door prizes were in abundance since Jay took the door prize budget and raided a local Harbor Freight with it. Some people actually ended up winning two door prizes, since the heat and humidity seemed to keep attendance down somewhat.

All in all, despite the hot and humid weather, everyone who participated in Field Day had a good time. Watch for our score in the December issue of QST, and enjoy the photos if you couldn't make it. Don't forget that Field Day is an annual event, and is always held during the 4th full weekend in June. So plan to join us next year on **June 22 and 23, 2006**. Mark your calendars now!

Field Day from the VHF/UHF Point of View (Steve)

Well, field day 2005 has come and gone and once again, Jacob, KC8GHX and I manned the VHF/UHF station with help from Sara, KC8CSU. With the heat and humidity on Saturday, and no breeze off the lake it seemed like it took forever to get set up. Two 30' push up masts, screen room, and tent. Then the radio and antennas. The 6 m moxon from last year was once again in service (don't quit while you are ahead) and a new antenna, dubbed the plumber's nightmare was in service for 2 m and 440. If you were there you know why it was dubbed the plum-ber's nightmare. A combination of PVC piping, aluminum tubing and steel and brass rods made up a combination 5 element 2 m Yagi and a 7 element 440 quagi. The gods of propagation were not with us this year and the bands were quiet. We did manage a respectable 40 qso's on 6 m and 17 on 2 m sideband. Most contacts were in Ohio, MI, and PA, with a few on 6 into Texas, Florida, and NY. Not as good as last year but just as much fun.

Special commendations to David and Jess Noeth who helped everyone get antennas and stations operational, and to all field day participants for coming our despite the heat and joining us for dinner.

See you all next year, and wait till you see the NEW antennas!!!!

[See Page 5 for June Door Prize Winners]

Association News

LEARA Wants...Trustee Candidates

de Bryan A. Torok, N8OOF

It's "that" time of the year again... Time to prepare for LEARA's annual election of one-third of its Board of Trustees.

To be eligible, a candidate must have been a member-in-good-standing for the 12 months preceding his or her nomination. 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:

Eric Jessen, N8AUC; Cliff Bade, W8CJB; John Radney, KC8FOC; Sara Cechner, KC8KSU; and Steve Kinosh, KB8UTA.

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 one of the following Election Committee members:

Bryan, N8OOF b.torok@en.com
 Marv, W8AZO marvg@apk.net

Looking Forward

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming LEARA activities.

General Meetings:

Tuesday, July 26 – Picnic Meeting—Come on out, have some picnic food, some good conversation, and join the fun as we try to hunt down the "fox"! If you're a little confused by that description, See the Article starting on page 1.

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 or call 440-942-8787, and she'll git 'er done!

Trustees Meetings:

Saturday, September 10– (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.

Public Service:

See Page 6 for details.

June Door Prize Winners

- Wire Strippers: **Jacob Kinosh, KC8GHX**
- Precision screw-driver set: **Marilyn Kinosh**
 Richard Brock, N8RB
- Pivot screwdriver: **Joshua Kinosh**
- Power supply: **Steve Kinosh, KB8UTA**
- Screwdriver set: **Ken Kane KG8DN**
- Hose Clamps: **David Noeth KD8ACO**
 Mike Cegelski K8EHP
- Side Cutters: **Marv Grossman W8AZO**
 Mary G Cegelski KC8YLC



- Cable Ties: **John Radney, KC8FOC**
- Alligator Clips: **Tom Kimball, KA8BZB**
- Needle nose pliers: **Darren Turk, K8DMT**
- Hex Wrench Set: **Bryan Torok, N8OOF**
- Box Cutter: **Sara Cechner, KC8KSU**
 Mike Cegelski, K8EHP
- ARRL log book: **Jess Noeth, KC8ACJ**
- Poncho: **Ken Kane, KG8DN**
- Call sign plaque: **Bill Hess, K8SGX**

Upcoming Events

ARDF at LEARA Picnic

(Continued from page 1)

Active or Passive Attenuator

Attenuators step down the signal coming into your HT to help you localize it as you get close, but can be adjusted or turned off when you're far away and trying to detect the signal. This is done a number of ways, one of which is to offset the signal by some harmonic of the primary, and another of which is to add capacitance. They're easier to tune than a coffee can, and make a fairly simple homebrew project.

Fox Boxes

These are the little guys you'll be hunting. They're beacon style transmitters that can run on batteries for 90 min or so. Any radio that has auto-transmit, or an operator willing to act as fox, will do. In fact, if there is interest, we could have a "roving fox" to add a little challenge to the event.

Other Equipment

There are numerous other neat devices for use in ARDF, such as chips that amplify or attenuate the loudness of the fox according to its signal strength, giving an auditory cue.

Many of these items will be available, or you are welcome to make any item as a summer homebrew project. Information about ARDF and projects such as tape measure beams are detailed on the "Homing In" website; contact Sara, KC8KSU and she'll send URLs and/or html files via email.

If you can donate/bring equipment to the event, please leave a message for Sara Cechner, KC8KSU at 440-942-8787 or send email to kc8ksu@yahoo.com. She'll be the "Hunt Master." Call soon, so she can cross items off her wish list!

Upcoming Public Service

Public Service:

Sunday, July 17—Skybank Triathlon. Hams will be meeting on the South Marginal Road near East 55th Street between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. Details (including maps) can be found on the event web site at: <http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/ClevelandTriathlon/athlete6.htm>. See the June issue of *Spirit of 76 & 88* or contact Tom Kumball (by e-mail at kaeightbzb@att.net, or by phone at 216-371-2832 evenings) for more information.

August 20-21—Pedal to the Point, see article, below.

Contact: Jeff Garvas, N8YNR, 216-552-4368.

Saturday, September 10—River Run 5 K, half marathon, and in-line skate event. **Contact:** Eric Jessen, N8AUC, at 440-734-3146 or n8auc@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Sunday, October 9—Towpath Marathon. Details to follow in a future issue.

Monday, October 31—Shaker Heights Pumpkin Patrol. Details to follow in a future issue.

Additional volunteer opportunities are available at <http://www.neomrc.org>

2005 Pedal to the Point — Sign Up Now!



**Jeff Garvas,
N8YNR**

The Buckeye
Chapter of the

National MS Society has scheduled the annual Pedal To The Point for August 20th and 21st (Saturday/Sunday) this year!

Approximately 25-35 ham radio volunteers are needed for this event. Because of the long distance covered, a mobile radio or amplified HT radios on two-meters (UHF a plus) are needed. Volunteers will be assigned to various locations along the 100-mile route on day one and 75 mile route on day two. This event requires many volunteers;

ANY part or full time commitment on one or both days can be accommodated and will be greatly appreciated!

If you contribute eight hours or more 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 list their medical as well as ham radio skills when they volunteer. Please pass along this information with everyone you know since we need MANY volunteers.

Volunteer by emailing me at jgarvas@neomrc.org or leave a message at (216) 552-4368. See <http://www.neomrc.org> for updates and other events.

Upcoming Regional Events

Contact Sara Cechner, KC8KSU, at 440-942-8787 or send email to editor@leara.org with updates.

July

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

2005 Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

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

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Add that touch of class to your Shack.

Custom made with your call sign.

Handcrafted in red oak from a computer designed template.

Finished with several coats of high-quality lacquer for durability and years of enjoyment.

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

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