



The Spirit of '76 and '88

Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Joe Prokop KC8RAN

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

This Month's Meeting — March 28, 2006

History and Discussion of Digital Video

Dave Kennett W8KFJ

Dave will present a DVD he has produced on the early history of digital video. He has recorded an interview with Mike Tallent, whom he credits with the earliest digital video back in 1973. Mike was with Consolidated Video System who introduced the first device to digitize video, a time base corrector. Dave will also add his comments and looks forward to an interactive discussion with the LEARA audience.

The meeting will be at Dimitri's Restaurant in the Midtown Shopping Center (Broadview and Snow Road, Parma). Dinner is served at 6:30 PM, with the meeting and program beginning at 7:30 PM. Dinner choices (Chicken Parmigiana, Steak or Broiled Scrod) are \$15 per person, and reservations are required if you wish to eat. Call Marv Grossman at (440) 248-0031 or online at leara.org.

Tally-Ho! - Local Foxhunters on the Prowl

Ultimate Fox Hunting

by Mike K8EHP
Tuesday, 7 March, 2006

This year's Sixth USA Championships of ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) will be held uncharacteristically early in Raleigh, North Carolina in April 7 - 9, 2006. The event will be held within the bounds of The William B. Umstead State Park. This years competitive field is larger than usual with entrants not only from our country but also as far away as Great Britain and Mongolia. The age spread includes people from their mid teens up to and including the mid sixties. Representing N.E. Ohio (read Cleveland) is Mary Cegelski (KC8YLC) and her OM Mike Cegelski (K8EHP). There are several age categories for both male and female to keep the competition as fair as possible. While you don't need a "ham" radio license to participate, almost all the runners are duly licensed. There are two days of competition the first day being held on the two meter band and the second day runs on seventy - five meters. With any luck at all between the two of us some medals will be brought back home. Regardless a whole lot of fun will be had to say nothing of sharpening homing skills. Wish us luck!

March 2006

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

Don Raith "Sunshine"	N8DJG 216-921-7546
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Bryan Torok Radio Officer	N8OOF 146.88/R

Trustees and officers can be emailed at callsign@leara.org

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

Editor:

Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

de N8AUC

I was listening to the broadcast radio the other day, and I heard those magical words. The magical words that mean spring is coming and will be here "real soon now". The magic phrase only has four words, but they are powerful when incanted in the proper order. The proper order is, "Pitchers and Catchers Report". That means the start of spring training for major league baseball teams. The following week all the players had to report, and I got to listen to the Indians first spring training exhibition game.

Shhh. Don't say anything about this, but it's March now, and we still are having a nice, mild winter. Even the "Winter Rally" wasn't much fun according to Tom KA8BZB. Mainly because there wasn't any snow or ice. But that's OK with me, because it means that maybe we'll have a warm, sunny day for the Indians Home Opener. What's this have to do with ham radio? Well - warm weather brings public service events (Westlake Soccer Tournament), hamfests (Hello Dayton!), Field Day, and antenna projects. And besides, I've been having this love affair with baseball in general, and the Indians in particular, since I was a little kid. Who needs a reason?

Maybe I'll need to dig up some baseball pictures to send on the newly resurrected LEARA SSTV net. Joe KC8RAN and John N8OBJ have brought that back to life. Make sure to check it out! Then there is the regular weekly LEARA net on the 76 repeater - every Thursday night at 8PM. The club nets are there for you - the club members. Don't miss out.

I sure hope you weren't one of those people who missed the February LEARA meeting. The topic was resonance. And Dr. Steve Umans, K8ZBE did an amazing job of presenting a difficult (but very important) topic in a remarkably understandable way. The most common comment I heard after the meeting was "I got way more out of that than I expected". How long has it been since YOU got more than you expected? Hats off to Tom W8TAB for scheduling such a great program for us. Tom is our program chairman this year, and he's been doing a great job! If you have ideas for programs you'd like to see at upcoming LEARA meetings, let Tom know. In the meantime, make sure to be at the March LEARA meeting, when I'll see you at Dimitri's!

73 de N8AUC!

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 or renew the ARRL, LEARA benefits monetarily if you so through the club. Send ARRL Applications/renewals to Club Treasurer Dave Foran WB8APD, 5439 Nan Linn Dr. Willoughby, OH 44094-4365. Make the check payable to LEARA, not the 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 p.m. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. 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** to leave a message.

Trustees' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m. 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

Welcome to the Club

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

New Members

CATHIE McADAMS - AB8GV

JIM McADAMS - KF8VX

(Note: Jim claims on the qrz.com website that he has "more electronic junk in (his) basement than you do!" Sounds like a challenge to everyone, especially with hamfest season coming up!).

Cathie and Jim will be a fine additions to our Association. If you hear either on the air, say hello and make them welcome!



Congrats, Kudos, and Well Done!

Have you or know of someone who has:

- Achieved an award or a feat worth celebrating?
- Recently upgraded or newly licensed?
- Done something above and beyond the call?

Submit your nomination with the name, callsign and the accomplishment to the editor (kc8ran@leara.org) so we can recognize the achievement.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 28: Digital Video, History and Discussion

April 25: Skywarn (make your reservations early!)

May 13: Trustees' Meeting

May 30: Satellite Operation/Beginner & Field Day Opportunities

June 24: Field Day

July 8: Trustees' Meeting

Club meetings, with the exception of the June Field Day and picnic meetings, are held at Dimitri's in the MidTown Shopping Center. Trustees Meetings are open to all members in good standing and are held at the Snow Rd. Library across from Dimitri's.

The LEARA Net

Note: See page 6 for a special LEARA Net news item!

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly net is held every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the 146.760 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater. This is an open and informal net intended to provide the opportunity to test radio equipment, promote fellowship among local amateur radio operators, and develop radio traffic handling skills.

Any member of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association interested in trying their hand at directing the weekly net is encouraged to contact Joe KC8RAN (kc8ran@leara.org) or as listed on page 2.

SSTV Net

The LEARA SSTV Net has returned to the 88 machine. We are currently running every other Saturday at 8:00. Planned dates are March 25, April 8 and April 22, with more dates possible. Announcements will be made on scheduled SSTV net dates and the weekly club net.

Net control operators are needed to help run the net. Contact KC8RAN (kc8ran@leara.org) or N8OBJ if you are interested. With more net control ops, we can increase the frequency of the net!

Club Member Profiles *de Steve KB8UTA*

This month's interview is with Eric, N8AUC, L.E.A.R.A. President

LEARA: How did you get interested in amateur radio? What got you started?

N8AUC: I started off with a short wave receiver back in the 70's. I played around with CB for a bit, so I know what 2-way radio was. (C.B.? What were you thinking? Steve KB8UTA) and I heard some guys talking around 14Mhz. Wondering what these guys were doing, I started asking questions, and I found that these guys were hams. Back then I had precious little knowledge what that was, and now I am one!

LEARA: How long have you been licensed and what class license do you hold now?

N8AUC: I passed my novice license exam in April of 1978. Back then it took 13 weeks to get your license (If you passed) and you had no privileges until you held that piece of paper. My license finally arrived after school was out for the summer. I'll never forget that day! What a thrill! Curiously, it was just in time for my first field day. Currently I hold an Amateur Extra Class license. One of the old fashioned kind where you had to pass a 20WPM code test I lament the fact that new guys won't be able to experience the sense of accomplishment that comes from doing that.

LEARA: What do you like about amateur radio?

N8AUC The thing I like best amateur radio, is that there is always something new to do, something new to try, and something new to play with. I have been a ham now for 28 years, and I haven't gotten bored with it yet. There aren't many things that have held my interest for that long. (Except for Robin, Steve KB8UTA) We have stuff that didn't really exist back in 1977.

LEARA: What are your favorite bands to work?

N8AUC: I like to work CW on 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters. I like SSB phone on 10 meters, and FM on the VHF/UHF bands. Once I get my sound card interface built, I'll be playing with PSK31 as well.

LEARA: Do you collect QSL cards? If so, how many countries do you have confirmed? What is your favorite card?

N8AUC: I do collect QSL cards, but not as avidly as I did when I was younger. I don't actively seek out QSL cards anymore, but I do respond 100% to cards I receive. My favorite card was from a contact I made with a guy in Finland in 1978. The card commemorated the 750th anniversary of the founding of the city of Turku, where he lived. His hometown was over 3 times as old as our entire country! Imagine that! (Eric.. What about that blank space on the wall waiting for that QSL from Alaska? Steve KB8UTA)

LEARA: What types of awards or recognitions have you received or have been awarded?

N8AUC: I haven't won any awards, at least not in ham radio. I did get an award from LEAR a few years ago for organizing field day. That was pretty neat! I suppose the best award is that they haven't thrown me out or LEARA yet. The nicest recognition I've received, when as an editor of one of the club newsletters we exchange with, contacted our newsletter editor at the time for permission to reprint a series of articles I wrote called "Repeater ABCs" Our editor at the time forwarded the request to me, since I was the author in question. That was very flattering, and quite a surprise, because I didn't think it was very good. (Eric,,, Ask a few of us fairly newbies. It was GREAT! Answered a lot of questions Steve KB8UTA)

LEARA: What other hobbies do you have besides amateur radio?

N8AUC: I've been told that there is a fine line between a hobby and mental illness. Not only do I agree with that, I embrace it. They can also be expensive, so having too many hobbies is probably not a good thing. At any rate, com-

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Announcements and Upcoming Public Service

March of Dimes—WalkAmerica Cleveland April 30, 2006 0800-1300 Local time

This event takes place around the Q Arena in downtown Cleveland. Some hams are needed for communication. Anyone interested in participating should contact T.J. Powell N8UIR via email at: tpowell@neomrc.com.

Westlake Soccer Tournament May 27-28

Bring a lunch, HT, spare batteries and a lawn chair and be part of a great event. Amateur operators are needed to help with scores and communications between multiple fields and the tourney HQ tent. This is a win-win for all; we provide the help to the tournament staff so they can continue to host a premier event, and we get to play radio and watch some entertaining games (trust me, you either get wrapped up in the action or get a smile watching the younger players). Such a deal! Contact Eric N8AUC at (440) 734-3146 or n8auc@leara.org to be part of the fun.

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puters are my other hobby. I'm very fortunate to be able to make a living with one of my hobbies.

LEARA: What would you dream station be? Where would it be?

N8AUC. Dream station? Boy has that changed over the years. These days, my dream station consists of gear that works and is paid for. It wouldn't be much different than what I have now. I suppose it would be nice to add a VHF/UHF all mode rig top my shack. A tower and some rotatable VHF/UHF beams would be good too. I'm sold on wire antennas for HF though (Just don't stand too close to KA8VIT when putting them up though! KB8UTA) Lately, I've been drooling over the idea of software defined radios. The only problem with those is that a computer powerful enough to operate one isn't exactly portable, which would make them had to use for Field Day.

Where would it be? Ideally, wherever I am. Some day, I hope to be toting my station around in a class C motor home. Although, if fuel prices keep doing what they are doing, the likelihood of that will significantly diminish. (Eric, driving to Alaska to make that contact isn't the same. KB8UTA)

LEARA: What type of work do you do?

N8AUC: My wife tells people I'm a professional computer geek. I guess that's a pretty good description. Originally I was an Electrical Engineer, graduated from Case, and spent about 10 years in the defense industry. That was before a plant closing and a layoff or two managed to move me into information systems. Then I worked for a couple of banks, before landing with the company where I am now employed. Currently I work for a consulting firm involved with health care finance. I write software, build databases, do data analysis, take care of our systems and network administration tasks, and in my spare time I handle our PC support duties.

Steve KB8UTA

**Check out the
newsletter in color at:**

www.leara.org

Need help with getting your license or upgrading to the next level. Contact LEARA by email to elmer@leara.org or visit the club website at

www.leara.org.

"It's Easier Than You Think!"

ARRL News

From the ARRL Letter...

VOLUNTEER RADIO AMATEURS "PART OF THE SOLUTION," FCC KATRINA PANEL TOLD

Addressing the FCC independent panel reviewing Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication networks, ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, praised Amateur Radio's ability to get the job done. Speaking before the panel March 7 in Jackson, Mississippi, Sarratt said Amateur Radio volunteers were tremendously effective in their ability to re-establish communication links using their own gear or by building systems from scratch.

"Amateur Radio operators themselves were part of the solution, providing experienced communications operators to replace and supplement local public service communications personnel in the devastated area," Sarratt said. The volunteer radio amateurs and their equipment proved "very effective" in supporting emergency management, the Red Cross, the Southern Baptist Convention, The Salvation Army and many other organizations, he told the panel.

For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt--working at an American Red Cross disaster relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama--headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations. Sarratt told the FCC panel that his operation processed and deployed more than 200 ham radio volunteers from 35 states and Canada to devastated communities in Mississippi. Volunteers set up communication facilities at kitchens, shelters, emergency operations centers, distribution centers, warehouses and various command and control centers, he said.

"In each town we set up a high frequency (HF) Amateur Radio station to communicate out of the area to Montgomery and the outside world," Sarratt explained. "We also set up a communications network connecting every Red Cross facility in a town on a local short-range radio frequency. Our network included fixed and mobile disaster vehicle stations."

Sarratt told the FCC panel that interoperability is the most important thing Amateur Radio can bring to the table in emergency and disaster communications. "Amateurs demonstrated their adaptability by communicating successfully with a multitude of amateur, commercial, public service, EMA, Salvation Army and Red Cross radio systems and personnel," he said.

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LEARA NET SCORES AGAIN!!!!

For the second time in as many years, Joe KC8RAN, a LEARA net control operator, received recognition from an Official Observer (OO). Here is the text of his remarks:

"The recent operation (2/3/06) of your net was a good example of amateur radio and its value to the hobby and the public in general..."

Last fall, Sara, KC8KSU also received this award. The pattern of good operation is not only from the net control, but those who check in. Besides the trivia question and club news, we also get news from around the area. For example, Mark, KC8FQV, a regular participant to the net, keeps us informed of new nets in nearby counties as well as the Tri-County Traffic net. Let's keep up the good work! Make sure to check into one of our nets (Club net Thursday or SSTV net on selected Saturdays). Keep in "shape" by participating and possibly taking a turn at net control. You never know when Cuyahoga County and surrounding areas may need our services in an emergency.

(Information on the Official Observer program can be found at www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/am_aux.html)



Hamfest Listing

26 Mar 2006

Lake County Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.lcara.org>
 Location:
 Madison High School
 3100 Burns Road
 Madison, OH

Talk-In: 147.21 (PL 110.9)
 Contact: Rocky, KB8WFD
 7480 Fern Drive
 Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060-3233
 Phone: 440-209-8953
 Email: rocky@lcara.org

02 Apr 2006

52nd Annual Hamfest/Electronics & Computer Show
 Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2006.htm>
 Talk-In: 147.27
 Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS
 239 Bermont Avenue
 Munroe Falls, OH 44262
 Phone: 330-688-2013
 Email: w8tts@w8tts.com

Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 Emidio & Sons Party Center
 48 East Bath Road

19-21 May 2006 (Pilgrimage to Dayton)

Dayton Hamvention
www.hamvention.org
 (note: CARS will not be sponsoring a bus trip this year)

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

26-Mar-2006

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA - MADISON
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM (440)256-0320 Email:
 SCOTTFARNHAM@ADELPHIA.NET
 Location: MADISON HIGH SCHOOL
 MIDDLE RIDGE & BURNS RD
 MADISON, OH 44057

08-Apr-2006

Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS
 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: BRUCE M FERRY (330)929-2766 (SEE
 WEB PAGE [HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE](http://WWW.AK8B.US/VE))
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 501 W MARKET ST
 AKRON, OH 44303

16-Apr-2006

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES S HALL (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM (WWW.W8HF.COM
 HOME PAGE)
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

29-Apr-2006

Sponsor: WRECS
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: ROBERT C GAUSS (330)562-3328 Email:
 N8ZB@YAHOO.COM
 Location: BENTLEYVILLE TOWN HALL/
 CHAGRIN FALLS
 6253 CHAGRIN RIVER RD
 CORNER SOLON RD & RIVER RD BASEMENT
 BENTLEYVILLE, OH 44022

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"Radio amateurs bring a wealth of resources to the public service and emergency communications table," Sarratt summed up. "The ARRL and Amateur Radio will continue to prepare, train, practice and test ourselves for the next event," he told the FCC panel. "Public service is a large component of the charter of the Amateur Radio Service." He suggested installing permanent Amateur Radio stations in federal, state and local emergency operations centers as well as at selected public service, Red Cross chapters and other served agencies.

"The disasters of 2005 have proven the worth of Amateur Radio Service and its selfless cadre of operators; we were tested as never before," Sarratt concluded, adding "we must assume the next 'big one' is just around the corner."

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VOICE REPEATERS:

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

- Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone)
 - Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby)
 - Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone)
 - Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone)
 - Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone)
 - Lakewood (131.8 Hz tone)
- (.76, .88, .90 and .70 offer emergency and member-only autopatch lines.)

PACKET NODES: CLE1 145.01 MHz: CLE5 145.05 MHz: CLEV220 223.70 MHz

These nodes are part of the Cleveland Net Cluster in K8EIW's backbone system.

GENERAL: NBRY
NBRYX
LEARA

- 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE)
- 145.07 MHz ↔ 223.70 MHz Gateway
- 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz PBBS

INTERNET:

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