



# 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 — June 24, 2006

This month's meeting is at the Field Day Site on Saturday, June 24th. No dinner meeting at Dimitri's this month. We are returning to the Lakefront State Park. Talk in will be on the '88 repeater. The gang will gather at around 9:00AM to begin setup. Radio activities start at 2:00 PM local time and go for 24 hours. Planned activities include SSTV, PSK31 and satellite contacts as well as a general good time for all.

The meeting will begin sometime after 5:00. Come early and be part of the event!



## May Meeting: Satellites!

May's meeting program was a presentation on how to get on satellites. The myth that it requires highly technical equipment that tracks satellites was immediately busted. The opening slides showed 2 portable operations using HT's. One was Aruni, VE4WMK, who happened to be 10 years old when she began making satellite contacts. Also shown was Allen N5AFV, working portable with an HT and dual band whip antenna on a cruise ship.

The presentation went over some antenna basics, doppler effect and how to compensate, satellites available to work and even some audio clips of QSO's on FM (both good and bad techniques). The key take-away was that it's not difficult to get into satellite communications. The limitation is really the willingness to try. All you need is the ability to run full duplex (144/435 Mhz), some decent antennas and quality feedlines.

## June 2006

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Trustees and officers can be emailed at [callsign@leara.org](mailto:callsign@leara.org)

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:**

Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

*de N8AUC*

You know, I really intended to get this piece written right after the soccer tournament. But sometimes stuff just gets in the way of even the best intentions. Hats off to our tremendous newsletter editor Joe, KC8RAN for managing to pull this newsletter off each and every month. And he does such a good job of it, too. The Spirit of 76 and 88 has never looked better, in my not so humble opinion. This is no small feat either, because LEARA has been blessed with some very talented newsletter editors over the years.

Speaking of the Westlake Soccer Tournament, I'd like to offer a sincere, heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers that made it such a successful event. The complete list of all who participated is listed elsewhere in this issue, so I'm not going to repeat it here. Except for one guy who got to do something new this year, and that was Jim N8XDO. He got to try his hand being Net Control this year. When you see Jim at Field Day, make sure to ask him how easy it was. Jim adjusted to it like a seasoned pro, and within about an hour or so, he had it running quite smoothly. Nice job, Jim! Next on the public service event schedule is the Cleveland Triathlon. Contact Tom, KA8BZB if you can help, and we'll need all the help we can get. It's a rather large event, but not quite as large as Westlake.

I must confess to feeling old right about now. Last night I watched my second daughter Nicole graduate from High School. She's off to Mount Union College in the fall to pursue a degree in Athletic Training. Since daughter #1 is still in college at the University of Toledo, this leaves us with only little Rebecca at home. For those of you who haven't seen Rebecca in a while, she's not really so little anymore. And on the fourth full weekend of June, she'll be doing one of her favorite things in the world, which is camping out, at one of my favorite events of the year, which is Field Day!

Field Day is an absolute blast! We'll be at our usual site at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park, in the area known as Upper Gordon Park, adjacent to the ranger station which is just north of the I-90/MLK interchange. We're gonna camp out, we're gonna fill the sky with antennas (more or less), we're gonna eat good (Hoggy's is catering again this year), and we're gonna play

*(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](http://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

### WIST Wrap Up

de N8AUC...

Memorial Day weekend this year should go into the Guinness Book of World Records. It was, of course the weekend of the annual Westlake Invitational Soccer Tournament, and Ham Radio was there. Saturday morning presented us with a foggy start. Much to our chagrin, we discovered that Westlake got a lot more rain in the days leading up to the tournament that we thought.

As I was walking towards the HQ tent, Steve KB8UTA yelled over to me, "Hey Eric! Do you remember the name of the place where Beetle Bailey was stationed?" I replied, "Yeah - Camp Swampy!" Steve then replied, "Wait til you see this!" When I got to the tent, Steve showed me the standing water on the ground in the HQ tent. Of course, being in the shade of the tent roof, it didn't exactly dry out nicely like the playing fields did either. Oh well, at least it wasn't cold, sleeting, hailing, raining, or any of the other conditions we've encountered over the years.

All we really needed was a lot of SPF30 sunblock, a good hat, and lots of water (to drink, not to wade in). It ended up being a truly gorgeous weekend!

This year's tournament saw record participation. There were 218 teams registered to play a total of 396 games over the two days of the tournament. This required play on 23 simultaneous fields. Hence the previous reference to that famous

*(Continued on page 4)*

### DE N8AUC

*(Continued from page 2)*

radio all night, or as close to all night as we can muster (I'm not as young as I used to be - but some of these guys just leave me in the dust). But most of all, we're gonna have fun! And since life is way too short not to have fun, you should plan on joining us. And of course the June LEARA meeting will be held at the Field Day site again this year! Talk in will begin around 9AM on Saturday, on the 88 repeater, because that's when we'll be gathering to begin setting up. The event itself starts at 2PM, and runs for 24 hours until 2PM on Sunday. Be there - or be square!

73 de N8AUC (da prez)

### Upcoming Meetings:

**June 24:** Field Day

**July 8:** Trustees' Meeting

**July 25:** Picnic Meeting

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

### LEARA "On The Air" Club Net Information

#### Club Net:

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. **Net Control Operators Needed...** 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](mailto:kc8ran@leara.org)) or as listed on page 2.

#### Slow Scan Night:

LEARA is again hosting a net on Saturdays at 8:00, every other week. This is an informal net, run more like a roundtable. NOTE: This is GREAT opportunity to take advantage of the superior audio quality to send some fantastic pictures. We are experimenting with high resolution modes. Also, on "off" weeks, look for a bunch of us just hanging around on the repeater.

If you need help getting started in receiving or sending pictures, this net is THE place to be. Each week we all seem to learn something new. John, N8OBJ has walked many of us through setup and operation of MMSSTV, the most popular freeware program used for SSTV. You can also drop an email to [kc8ran@leara.org](mailto:kc8ran@leara.org).

## Association News

### WIST Wrapup

(Continued from page 3)

book of records. I've done this every year except one since 1992, and I've never seen that many teams in the tournament. Of course that meant that we needed more hams as well. Fortunately, there were only four serious injuries reported, but three of those required transport via EMS. We had a neck injury (which you just don't mess around with), a knee injury, a probable broken nose (with a lot of blood loss), and a wrist injury. The EMTs from the Westlake Fire Department were kept busy dealing with those.

We had a new tournament director this year, and he wasn't quite sure what we did. After a few hours on Saturday, he came over to me and admitted as much. This was immediately followed by the comment, "and now I know why we need you guys. There is no way we could pull this off, and keep it all coordinated without you!" In addition to the 4 serious injuries, we dealt with missing referees, a missing child, a soccer ball gone flat during a game, missing game cards, a red carded player, and assorted other logistical issues.

Thanks go out to the 23 volunteers (not including me or Bryan) who did a tremendous job making ham radio look good in the eyes of the public. Special recognition goes out to Steve KB8UTA, Marv W8AZO, and Jacob KC8GHX who were there all day both days. Having that kind of dedicated support makes this job look a lot easier than it really is. The entire praiseworthy crew was: Tom KA8BZB, Bill N8XDM, Joe KC8RAN, Jim N8XDO, Bob W2THU, Jeannie KC8MNV, Steve N8TUA, Cheryl KC8MWN, Sara KC8KSU, John KC8FOC, Gary WA8TJL, David KD8ACO, Tom W8TAB, Mike K8EHP, Tom W8ZIP, Gil KE8WV, Marc KC8SIE, Bill N8VUL, Jeff K8JTK, Tom N8QXA, Steve KB8UTA, Jacob KC8GHX, and Marv W8AZO. Additional thanks go to Bryan N8OOF for helping to install the special temporary use repeater that supports the tournament. See you next year for WIST!

### Let Us Know

Have you recently upgraded or received a vanity call sign? Did you finally get that last state for your WAS award or finally received your DXCC? Let us know. Please share your amateur radio related awards or special recognitions by sending a note to [editor@leara.org](mailto:editor@leara.org)

### Dayton '06-From the Other Side

de KC8RAN...

I had the opportunity to be on the "other" side of Dayton... I worked at the AMSAT booth on Friday and Saturday. I also had the opportunity to help set up on Thursday. Here's what it's like to be inside during the largest hamfest...

Wednesday. Left work and began to drive down 71. Bright clear skies. Made the interchange to 270 and through to 70, when the skies started to look gloomy. Arrived at the hotel at 7:30 in a driving rain and wind. Yep, it's Dayton time!

Thursday. The day began at 9:00 with a trip to the storage locker to get the booth materials. The sun was shining brightly. After loading and unloading, the weather took the normal turn for the worse. A hailstorm pounded the roof for about 5 minutes, followed by the ladies from RSGB and the ARRL (both our neighbors in the ballroom) being totally fascinated by hail stones on the ground. The booth is up and ready by 4:30. AMSAT does a Pizza and Suds party on Thursday, but I was too tired to hang around.

Friday: The fun begins. My shift doesn't begin until 11:00, so I wander around. Looked through the flea market for a while, but really worked on seeing how many ICOM hats I could collect. The "booth babes" were walking around with red ICOM hats in the arena and the flea market. I was only able to get 1 red one, but got 3 black ones and a rain poncho for WIST, just in case. When I started my shift, I could see some AMSAT hooligans planning something. Their plans became evident as a contingent from AMSAT surrounded ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, escorted him to the AMSAT booth and signed him up as a new member. Hope he got the tote bag! During my 3 hour shift, I found a lot of people interested in space communications, spurred by SuitSat. Speaking of which, I got an explanation on the possible cause of the weak signal at the AMSAT banquet. Close inspection of the antenna photos after installation showed possible damage at the base. The antenna is similar to popular foxhunt measuring tape style elements, covered in kapton tape. SuitSat II is already in the works, possibly to launch in celebration of Sput-



Your humble newsletter editor, demonstrating SatPC32 tracking software at the AMSAT booth.

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## Club Member Profiles *de Steve KB8UTA*

This month's interview is with Joe KC8RAN, Trustee and Newsletter Editor

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

I first became interested in radio as an SWL in the '60's. I got my Novice license as WN8MRS in 1972 and Advanced Class in 1974 as WB8MRS. My primary interest at the time was DX, but soon became interested in satellites as AMSAT was just forming. Unfortunately, work and family dictated I shelve radio until time became available to do it again. I believe in full-contact parenting and spent lots of time in ice rinks, baseball diamonds and soccer fields.

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

For the second go-around, I retested at the Lake County hamfest in 2001 as a General with my current call and 3 months later upgraded to Extra in Lorain. CW was a breeze and I missed Extra on my first attempt by 1 question.

LEARA: What do you like about amateur radio?

It's a big tent. There's DXing, SSTV, contesting, emergency nets, public service events, mobile repeater operation, fox hunting, and of course, my favorite, satellite operation. You can transmit pictures, digital (including CW), and voice. It's not just talking to someone, although you can do that, too. It's a skill, a sport and a way to give back to the community. Currently I spend most of operating time working satellites or on the LEARA nets.

LEARA: What are your favorite bands to work?

UHF/VHF for satellites. 15M and up for DX. 80 meters to 20 meters doesn't seem to work for me for DX but does work OK for US CW contacts. I also do a little PSK31.

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

I have about 80 confirmed, both through QSL's and LOTW. I have worked 109 DXCC entities. My favorite card is from KL7RA. That was my first confirmed "DX" contact in my first attempt at a contest. (Hint to N8AUC: listen during the CQ and ARRL DX contests on 15 and 10).

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

Other hobbies I have pursued are model railroading, astronomy, golf and, most recently, sailing. I can't afford the boat yet, but charter and hitch rides where I can as crew (I've passed 2 sailing courses by US Sail.)

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

For HF, I'm satisfied with the ICOM IC-756PROII and the dipole. I can use it to work the world, with maybe some more wires strung in the yard. For satellites, I'd like to add 1.2 Ghz and 2.4 Ghz capability.

LEARA: What type of work do you do?

I work for Keithley Instruments in Solon. Currently I'm the Lean Manufacturing guru and a 6 sigma black belt.

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*Dayton (Continued from page 4)*

nik. Even though a lot of the work was done here, NASA considered SuitSat a Russian project, and the Russians like to do special events and activities to mark special milestones.

Saturday: Came a little later because I had a long day ahead. Walked the flea market again. Tried to find N8OBJ, but ran out of time before my shift. I generally avoid the main arena as it's too hard to walk through for a XXL size guy. But I gave it a shot and survived, somewhat. Returned to the AMSAT booth and manned the books and SATPC32 demo areas. On both days we had a lot of memberships either renewed or new members. I personally had about 15-20 I escorted to the sign up table. Traffic was light after about 1:30 as we figured most people either had been through or were out in the flea market. Again, a lot of questions about how to get into satellites. A lot of visitors bought the updated "Getting Started in Satellites" book. I think we had a good run on the AMSAT shirts as well, especially XXL sized ones. I had to leave at 3:00 to get home for a graduation party, so my stay was cut short. Looking back, my impression was that while there was a lot of traffic, most people just wandered around. But those who stopped at the booth definitely were showing interest. Having a good view of the ARRL booth, it was evident they seemed to be very busy, too. Maybe there is some hope for ham radio, if we can keep people interested...



## Announcements and Upcoming Public Service

### Cleveland Triathlon July 23, 2006

This year's Cleveland Triathlon will be held on Sunday morning July 23, 2006. 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 any LEARA meeting (including the June LEARA meeting at the field day site). You can also send me an e-mail at [kaeighbzb@att.net](mailto:kaeighbzb@att.net), or give me a phone call at 216-371-2832 some evening.

Other Upcoming Events. Watch future newsletters for more info:

August:

Pedal to the Point—contact Jeff N8YNR.

September:

River Run—contact is Eric N8AUC

October:

Race For The Cure



## LEARA Field Day - 2006

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2006 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. Note: 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 bring some ice and beverages (soft drinks only).

Expect the dinner and club meeting sometime after 5:00 PM

### Directions from east or west

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

**Talk in on the 146.880 repeater will begin at 9:00 AM (or sooner)**

## Hamfest Listing

**30 Jul 2006**

### HAMFAIR 2006

Portage Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.hamfair.com>

**Talk-In:** 145.390 -

Randolph, OH

Portage County Fairgrounds

State Route 44

**Contact:** Joanne Solak, KJ3O/8

9971 Diagonal Road

Mantua, OH 44255

Phone: 330-274-8240

Email: [ljsolak@apk.net](mailto:ljsolak@apk.net)

**24 Sep 2006**

### Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

Hamfest Association of Cleveland

<http://www.hac.org>

**Talk-In:** 146.73 (PL 110.9)

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

**Contact:** Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc.

PO Box 81252

Cleveland, OH 44181-0252

Phone: 800-CLE-FEST

Email: [info@hac.org](mailto:info@hac.org)

## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

**08-Jul-2006**

Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: BRUCE M FERRY

(330)929-2766

Contact: SEE WEB PAGE

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

501 W MARKET ST

[HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE](http://WWW.AK8B.US/VE)

AKRON, OH 44303

**09-Jul-2006**

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: GARY S DEWEY

(216)642-8705

Email: [GDEWEY@EN.COM](mailto:GDEWEY@EN.COM)

Location: TOWN HALL

6652 BRECKSVILLE RD

STATE ROUTE 21

INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

**16-Jul-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](mailto:VE@W8HF.COM)

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

[WWW.W8HF.COM](http://WWW.W8HF.COM) (HOME PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

**29-Jul-2006**

Sponsor: WRECS

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ROBERT C GAUSS

(330)562-3328

Email: [N8ZB@YAHOO.COM](mailto:N8ZB@YAHOO.COM)

Location: BENTLEYVILLE TOWN HALL/CHAGRIN

FALLS

6253 CHAGRIN RIVER RD

CORNER SOLON RD & RIVER RD

BASEMENT

## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

**18-Jun-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](mailto:VE@W8HF.COM)

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

[WWW.W8HF.COM](http://WWW.W8HF.COM) (HOME PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

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

**[www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org)**

**"It's Easier Than You Think!"**

**July Club Picnic– Hoggy’s (if you remember the food at Field Day ‘05, enough said!) Mark July 25th on your calendars.**

## **LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association**

### **VOICE REPEATERS:**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>53.230/R-</b> | • Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone)   |
| <b>146.76/R-</b> | • Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby) |
| <b>146.88/R-</b> | • Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone)  |
| <b>224.90/R-</b> | • Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone)   |
| <b>444.40/R+</b> | • Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone)   |
| <b>444.70/R+</b> | • 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.

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>GENERAL: NBRY</b> | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE) |
| <b>NBRYX</b>         | • 145.07 MHz ⇔ 223.70 MHz Gateway   |
| <b>LEARA</b>         | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz PBBS      |

### **INTERNET:**

- [www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org)
- To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: [spirit76-request@leara.org](mailto:spirit76-request@leara.org)  
Put subscribe in the subject area and your name and callsign in the body.  
Those who subscribe via e-mail will not receive a paper copy.

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**Club**

**Northern Ohio**



**Affiliate**