



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 27, 2007

Skywarn!

This month's meeting is the Annual Skywarn meeting. Gary Garnet of the National Weather Service will present the Skywarn training program. In order to maintain certification, and be able to recognize, identify and forward important weather related information, this training is a must. Mark, KC8FQV has noted the training has been updated, so even if you attended last year's training, you really should make an effort to get to this year's as well!

The meeting will be held at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, Ohio (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center, just west of Broadview Road). Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the formal meeting will **MOST LIKELY START EARLIER THAN THE NORMAL 7:30 START TIME. Gary usually likes to begin around 7:00.** Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but reservations are required if you do wish to eat.

Restaurant service is available only for those who purchase dinner. If you are attending the meeting only, kindly purchase beverages at the bar and bring them to your table. The dinner menu will consist of Steak, Broiled Boston Scrod, or Chicken Parmigiana for \$16. Also available is a vegetable and pasta dish for those who prefer a meatless dinner. The dinner includes a salad, main course, dessert, ice tea or coffee, and gratuity (please note, bar service and soft drinks are not included).

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY 11:00 AM OF THE MEETING DATE. Please call in your reservation and your menu choice to Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at 440-248-0031. You can also visit leara.org and make your reservation through the club's website.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE TO MEMBERS - The "grace" period for membership delinquency expires at the end of this month.

If your mailing label says that this is your LAST newsletter, please remit dues ASAP to avoid missing subsequent issues. If you receive your newsletter electronically and don't know if your membership is expired, contact Marv Grossman, W8AZO, via e-mail (W8AZO@leara.org), phone (440-248-0031), on-the-air, in person or whatever, to find out your status. LEARA values your membership (dues is our only source of funds to maintain the club's repeaters and pay operating expenses) and yours truly has better things to do with his time than to bird-dog those who are not paid up. PLEASE KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT!! Thanks. Marv Grossman, W8AZO

March 2007

In This Issue

Officers/Trustees	2
de N8AUC	2
LEARA Info	2
Association News.....	3
Trustees' Meeting.....	4
February Meeting.....	5
ARRL News.....	6
Local Interest.....	8
Hamfest & VE Exam Listing.....	9

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POINTS OF CONTACT

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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 before 9:00 on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The newsletter is sent to the publisher on the second Monday of the month

Editor: Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

de N8AUC

Well, I got a phone call tonight from ye olde newsletter editor. Boy, am I in trouble now. Here's a news flash. It's not the first time I've been in trouble with a newsletter editor, and it probably won't be the last time either. So this month I've gotta think fast, and type quick.

Hopefully you did NOT miss our February meeting. Man what a great presentation we got from Bill, N8HUQ about cellular telephone installations. Not the wimpy little gizmo you hold in your hand, no this was about the business end of cellular telephone installations - the network stuff itself. It was one seriously cool presentation.

Most of you have heard of, but never seen or touched a piece of 1 5/8" Andrews Heliac. I've worked with the 1/2" Heliac before, but never the really big stuff. Well, if you were at the February meeting you did. And the connectors, well let's just say you could hurt someone with that stuff. Big, beefy, hefty, you know you're handling some metal there.

Big thanks to Tom, W8TAB for lining Bill up as a speaker. We're fortunate enough to have Tom again this year as our program chairperson. Don't look now folks, but he's out doing himself this year. A good rule of thumb is that if Tom lined up a speaker, you probably don't want to miss that program.

Well, since the last time I wrote this we've been through the depth of winter. That snowfall on Valentine's Day was a real doozy. I hope all your antennas held up just fine. Mine did - which only means one thing. They're not up high enough. Hopefully you didn't have to do any repairs in the ridiculous cold we had. They say that antennas that you put up in the worst weather work the best. I don't know if that's true from first hand experience. But I'd think that you're better off putting up an antenna when you can have feeling in, and use of your fingers.

(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 a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to accept charitable donations. Consult a tax advisor to determine how such donations may affect your taxes.

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**.

(Continued from page 2)

But now, almost all the snow has melted, which just figures because I finally got my snow blower back from the repair shop. Just in time to not need it any more (I hope). And get this, the weather folks are predicting 65 degrees for tomorrow. I can't wait. I'm so tired of it being warmer in my food freezer than it is outside.

Speaking of weather folks, you REALLY don't want to miss our March meeting. It's time for the annual Skywarn Spotter Training, and in March we're fortunate enough to have Gary Garnet from the Cleveland NWS office as our guest speaker.

Over the years, I have been to more spotter training sessions than I can count. Mainly because I'm getting old enough that I can't always remember all of them. But Gary always refines and improves his presentation every year, and I can honestly say that I learn a little something new every time I hear the training.

So plan on joining us at Dimitri's for dinner and the spotter training program on Tuesday, March 27th. This is one of our highest attendance meetings of the year, so if you want a good seat for the program, I'd really recommend that you come early and have dinner with us. So, give Marv a call at 440-248-0031 and get your dinner reservations in (they are required if you want to eat). Be there, or be square.

And in closing, I'd like to extend condolences to the family of Earl, W8QCB. For those of you who don't know, Earl passed away recently. I just found out from Marv at the March Trustees Meeting Earl was a long time member of LEARA. I got to know Earl and his lovely wife personally last October when I went to their Parma home to help Earl renew his license. By that time he was legally blind, and was unable to take care of this on his own. Earl was a good guy - he'll be missed.

73 de N8AUC

Notice to Subscribers:

If you receive the newsletter by mail, you are missing the "web subscribers bonus" article in the area occupied by the mailing label.

By subscribing electronically, you not only save the club some postage, you get a little more content.

Welcome and Congrats!

LEARA proudly welcomes the following members:

TERRY PRISTAS, N8USN
JIM THOMAS, KC8UNV

If you hear Terry or Jim on the air, please be sure to welcome them into the club!

Mark, WD8KHU, checked into the club net and announced he recently upgraded to General. Newly minted Tech, **Matt, KD8FKF** checked in to the club net March 8 one day after receiving his license. Congrats to both Mark and Matt!

Congrats to **Ken KG8DN**, operating the Gilmour Academy Club Station **ND8GA** in the recent School Club Roundup. Ken logged 14 states, 2 provinces, 16 countries, 3 radio clubs and 7 school clubs en route to logging a score of 8,249. Thanks, Ken , for all you do to raise awareness of Amateur Radio!

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.

SSTV Net: "88 at 8!"

LEARA is sponsoring an informal SSTV net on Saturdays on the "88" machine at 8:00PM. This net is open to anyone and everyone. Refer to the January 06 newsletter for hints on how to get started, or check in and we'll get you on the way to exchanging pictures. Check ins are open to anyone, whether sending pictures, receiving pictures only, or just listening in, let us know you are out there!

Net Control Operators Needed...Any member of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association interested in trying their hand at directing the weekly net or the SSTV net are encouraged to contact Joe KC8RAN (kc8ran@leara.org) or as listed on page 2. It's a good opportunity to be prepared for emergencies or just to upgrade your operating skills.

See you Thursdays on "76" and Saturday Nights on "88"!

Association News

Trustee's Meeting 3/10/07

Board Members Present: W8TAB, KC8GHX, N8AUC, 0-Abstentions
 N8NAP, KC8RAN, WA8TJL, KC8FOC, W8AZO,
 W2THU, K8EHP, N8XDO, WB8APD, N8OOF,
 N8YNR

Excused Board Member: K2RJ

Guests: K8SGX, WD8JMM, KC8UIX, K8DMT

The following actions were approved by the Trustees on March 10, 2007:

-N8AUC reported that the Tech Committee recently met and made the following recommendation: We should not implement D-Star because it is too expensive to install and few hams can afford the \$1,000.00 for a 1.2 GHz transceiver. N8YNR moved that we return the D-Star 1.2GHz repeater to ICOM for the reasons mentioned. This motion was seconded by N8AUC and passed as follows: 12-Yes 0-No 2-Abstentions

-WB8APD moved that LEARA remove its second telephone lines at both the east and west repeater sites, install DSL on the remaining phone lines, which will still be available for autopatch and control functions, and install the IRLP node on the 146.88 repeater. This motion was passed as follows: 13-Yes 0-No 1-Abstention

-Selection of Nominating Committee: Eric appointed the following for the 2007 version of this committee: W8AZO, N8OOF and W2THU.

-Mission Statement: W8TAB submitted a proposed Mission Statement. W8AZO moved that the Board adopt the statement as written and to put it on the club website. This motion was passed as follows: 14-Yes 0-No 0-Abstentions. (see related article)

-N8YNR moved that LEARA authorize spending for this year's Field Day. This motion was seconded by W2THU and passed as follows: 14-Yes 0-No 0-Abstentions

-W8AZO moved to insert the following language in the Newsletter, on prospective member info sheets, on member renewal notices and on the website: "LEARA is a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to accept charitable donations. Consult a tax advisor to determine how such donations may affect your taxes." This motion was seconded by N8YNR and passed as follows: 14-Yes 0-No

Note: All members in good standing are welcome to attend the Trustees' Meeting.

Mission Statement

Below is the version of the club's mission statement, as submitted by Club VP Tom, W8TAB. This is a working document and may be revised.

LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION Mission Statement

LEARA's Mission is to promote and foster for its members the enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

The Club will do this by promoting the acquisition of knowledge through continuing education, licensing upgrades, the passion for ownership of Amateur Radio equipment and accessories, for collecting, and most of all, operating the Amateur Radio Equipment for which they are licensed.

We will accomplish our mission through the sponsorship of;

- Educational programs & courses
- Promoting license upgrades
- Continuing education courses for all the above
- Club sponsored events and activities
- Community Service & Public Service Projects
- Charity Projects
- By supporting Hamfests, trade shows and other amateur radio events
- By designing, installing and maintaining a comprehensive state of the art repeater network
- By promoting the training of amateur radio operators for emergency and public service, especially during periods of disaster or emergency

Association News

February Meeting: Insider's View of the Cell Phone Network

LEARA was privileged to have Bill Hertz, N8HUQ present an insiders view of the cell phone equipment. This was excellent opportunity to learn about those towers nobody wants in their backyard but can't live without, the innards of the adjoining building, and some other facts and trivia about how a cell phone system functions. For those staunch repeater people who curse the day the cell phone took away interest from mobile communication, it was a chance to learn about your enemy!

The local cell phone industry started in 1968, actually starting out as a vehicle telephone service. There were 6 cell sites around the area. It cost about \$1,000 to install a phone in your vehicle. Air time was about \$3.00 a minute. Today there are about 100 cell phone towers in the Cuyahoga County area for a single company. The analog service is found in the 800Mhz band and the new PCS phones are migrating to 1900 Mhz.

In terms of coverage vs. capacity, coverage is the distance that the tower and cell phone can make the connection. Capacity is how many phones at a time that can be making calls simultaneously. Height of the tower increases coverage, but actually decreases capacity. The trend now is to put more towers up with less coverage to increase capacity. Following this strategy allows between 5,000 and 6,000 calls every 30 minutes. One strategy employed that you may see is a tower with the antenna arrays well below the top of the tower. By lowering the arrays, you reduce the coverage. By adding more, lower arrays around the area, you increase capacity.

The arrays are 3 element log-periodic antennas stacked into an array. These arrays are covered to prevent damage from ice and other falling projectiles. The 3 sided arrangement found on most towers allows for coverage from all directions, since there will be unheard signals at the back of the beams. The cool thing is that you increase capacity by 3 by using the directional antennas. All of these sectors in the arrays are all on the same frequency.

Did you ever wonder why, when your cell phone shows full bars, your calls are being dropped or you can't get into the tower? Interestingly enough, the same problem exists here that hams experience in longer distance contacts. Sometimes the path is not always two-way. Remember, most cell phones have a maximum power of about 300mw. The tower transmits at 50 watts per channel. The tower signal strength is what the bars show, not your strength to the tower, just like your S-meter on the home rig.

Here's the catch. The tower will ping your phone hundreds of times per second to send a signal. It will then send instruc-

tions for you phone to adjust your output power to just 6db over the noise floor. Remember the capacity issue? If you have stronger phones capable of hitting more towers, you lose capacity. So the phone is set just to the point it can hit the nearest tower. Also, keep in mind your phone has a dinky little antenna. Put this all together, you are definitely running QRPP!

Throw in some trivia about tower colors, tower lights, some cool signs, samples of the coax used, pictures of damage from falling ice, super-duper power supplies and state of the art equipment, we had one heck of a program! Thanks to Bill for taking the time to show us an insider's view of cell phone communications!

Door Prize Winners:

My apologies for busted calls or incorrect prizes. Someone shut the light off on me! (Yeah, I know, the lights have been off for some time now!)

50/50: WA8TJL

LEARA Buck: Carol, responsible adult for N8XDO

2006 Triathlon T-Shirts, courtesy of Tom KA8BZB (Reminder: you can get a new one by helping out. Stay tuned for more info!): K8ZBE, WA8SAJ, WA8GKN, K8DMT

Soldering Torches and other incendiary devices from Fred K8PP (Thank you Plug: visit www.solder-it.com for a taste of what was won): KD8DWK, N8AUC, N8DJG, N8OBJ, N8YNR

Mark Your Calendars for These Events:

May 20 Cleveland Marathon (see article)
May 26-27 Westlake Soccer Tournament
June 23-24 Field Day
August 5 Cleveland Triathlon

(details will be found in future issues)

ARRL News (from the ARRL Letter)

HAM RADIO ANTENNA BILLS IN PLAY IN THREE STATES Lawmakers in three states -- Arizona, Maryland and Oklahoma -- are considering Amateur Radio antenna bills that would put the essence of the limited federal pre-emption known as PRB-1 into each state's statutes. The Arizona and Maryland bills go a step beyond most PRB-1 legislation. They not only would require that municipal land-use or zoning regulations "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication per PRB-1, spelled out in the FCC's Amateur Radio rules in §97.15(b), they would extend the same protections to certain private communities where deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) apply.

The Arizona amateur antenna bill, House Bill 2595 calls for "reasonable heights and dimensions for accommodation of Amateur Radio station emergency service communications antennae and structures." After stripping a provision to exempt Amateur Radio licensees from the \$25 vanity license plate fee from the bill, the Arizona House Appropriations Committee voted out the measure with a "do pass" recommendation. The bill already has a Senate sponsor.

In Maryland, essentially identical bills are under consideration in both legislative chambers: House Bill 941 and Senate Bill 68. These measures would require local zoning authorities to comply with the PRB-1 limited federal pre-emption calling on municipalities to "reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication." The bills' provisions also would apply to homeowners' associations (HOAs) that have not already enacted antenna restrictions by the time the bill becomes law. Affected HOAs would not be permitted to "restrict or prohibit the design, placement, screening, height or use of Amateur Radio equipment on the property of lot owners." The measure would exempt HOAs having antenna restrictions in place when the bill goes into effect, however.

Among other things, the Maryland bills' preambles cite the value of Amateur Radio to the public welfare, pointing out its "invaluable emergency radio communication services in the state and across the United States before, during and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills and other disasters."

In Oklahoma, House Bill 1037 has been voted out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation and onto House floor for a vote. The measure provides that municipal ordinances shall comply with §97.15(b) by permitting Amateur Radio antennas or antenna support structures "at a height and dimension sufficient to accommodate Amateur Radio service communications." The measure already has a sponsor in the Oklahoma Senate.

To date, 23 states have adopted PRB-1 legislation <<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/statutes.htm>>. PRB-1 does not specify a minimum height below which local governments may not regulate but does require reasonable accommodation, but four states -- Alaska, Wyoming, Virginia and Oregon -- enacted legislation that specifies heights below which municipalities may not regulate.

SEVERE WEATHER PUTS AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS TO THE TEST Severe weather that included tornadoes March 1 prompted activation by Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers in Alabama, Georgia and Missouri. Twenty people died in the three states, including seven in Alabama. A tornado destroyed the high school in Enterprise, and five students died when the roof collapsed as they took cover inside. Tornadoes wreaked extensive property damage in the affected communities. "It was a very busy day for Alabama ARES," said ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK. "Amateur Radio operators all across the state were busy March 1 tending to a massive severe weather outbreak in most of the state." Sarratt says Alabama was under multiple tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings for a large part of the day.

Amateurs stationed at National Weather Service (NWS) offices, emergency operations centers (EOCs) and elsewhere used HF and VHF to relay critical weather information to served agencies, he reported. "The Alabama amateurs performed as professionals," Sarratt said. "Many hams took off from work to staff stations." At week's end, Sarratt told ARRL Headquarters that Enterprise/Coffee County Emergency Coordinator Jim Garrison, KL0LN, and local amateurs were still at the Enterprise EOC assisting the local emergency management agency and the city with recovery efforts.

In Georgia, ARRL Section Traffic Manager Charles Pennington, K4GK, said the Georgia ARES Net activated during the afternoon of March 1 and continued into the wee hours of March 2, as a series of severe weather watches and warnings were posted. "Several tornadoes were reported, scattered mostly through central and southern Georgia," he said. "We had 82 stations reported on the statewide HF net. In addition, the SKYWARN nets were active from 1:45 PM until around midnight, with extensive coverage in the af-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

affected areas." Pennington said several VHF/UHF nets also were up and running during the event. Georgia ARES stood down March 2 but remained on standby if needed during recovery operations.

Georgia authorities blamed the storms for at least two deaths after a tornado struck a hospital in Americus. Another person died and four were injured when a tornado touched down in Taylor County, near Albany. In Missouri, Section Traffic Manager Dale Huffington, AE0S, cited "many reports of activation" March 1 on the 75-meter phone net. "Amateurs in over half of Missouri's ARES districts reported activations due to the storm," he said. In Howell County, in south-central Missouri, a tornado was blamed for the death of a seven-year-old girl. An ARES net activated in Howell County. In Boone County, in central Missouri, ARES teams activated at the request of the Joint Communications Information Center. Ten weather spotters -- among them Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator Don Moore, KM0R -- provided real-time, ground-level weather observations to supplement NWS radars in Kansas City and St Louis.

Australia's WIA applies for 500 kHz amateur allocation: The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) has applied to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) for experimental access to a small band of frequencies near 500 kHz. Amateur Radio operators in the United States, the UK, Sweden and Germany have recently been granted experimental or provisional access to frequencies just above 500 kHz. The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters also has applied for access to the band. The WIA requests a temporary/experimental amateur allocation of 505-515 kHz, in line with current medium-frequency allocations available to radio amateurs and experimenters in Europe and the US.

Tidbits from the ARRL Propagation Bulletin, edited by Tad Cook, K7RA

We heard from another ham enjoying low power operations at the bottom of the cycle. Bill Raiford, NI4Y of Fredericksburg, Virginia says he operates 10 watts on 20 meters from his car. Bill says, "Last week I worked VK2KM and this week I worked VK2GWK from my 10 watt mobile station. No, VK isn't rare DX, but just the thought of 10 watts propagating from my vehicle in VA to VK land is quite amazing. I am at 194 countries from my mobile."

In case you thought HF radio is no fun at the bottom of the solar cycle, Aki, JA2UOZ, Aki, of Nagoya, Japan writes that he operates with only one-half watt transmitter power and dipole antennas. Currently he is trying for

DXCC on 17 meters and higher at the bottom of the solar cycle. He outlines his personal challenge at, <http://www.k4.dion.ne.jp/~jq2uoz/sub1.html>, and some of his recent contest logs at, <http://www.k4.dion.ne.jp/~jq2uoz/sub7.html>.

Eric Owen, KD4MZM of Sarasota, Florida sent a URL for a web page devoted to 10-meter beacons at, <http://10mbeacons.com/>. Here you can check loggings for 10-meter beacons, and leave your own feedback as well for any you hear. There is also a list of links to individual beacon web sites, and a beacon-chat area. Eric runs a beacon on 28.277 MHz.

Billy Michaud, AA1TT in Claremont New Hampshire operates a 5 watt 10-meter beacon on 28.269 MHz in grid square FN33uj. On February 14 Billy received a report from Ned Conklin, KH7JJ in Honolulu, that Billy's beacon was received with good signals at 2100z. Ned operates exclusively on 10-meters using a mobile whip clamped to the railing of his apartment's lanai railing. Ned says this is the first 10-meter beacon from the Eastern USA that he's heard in 2 years. Billy reports that with the sunspot cycle at the bottom, he doesn't get many reception reports for his beacon lately, except for some sporadic E propagation. Billy has a web page devoted to his beacon at, <http://home.comcast.net/~aa1tt/>.

Mike Best, WD4DUG sent an article from Toronto's Globe and Mail about five satellites recently launched to study aurora. View it at, <http://snipurl.com/1ao6g>. David Moore sent an interesting article from the European Space Agency about the Ulysses spacecraft observing the sun. You can read about it at, http://www.esa.int/esaSC/SEMB3KBE8YE_index_0.html.

From Jim Weaver K8JE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Wherever I've visited in hamdom since returning from the Board mid-January meeting, I've asked members if they approve of the ARRL's legislative agenda for the current session of the US Congress. The immediate answer has always been a solid, "yes." The agenda calls for us to pass national laws that are beneficial to Amateur Radio and the public we serve. These laws would enable amateurs essentially anywhere to put up antennas (overriding local codes covenants and restrictions), protect Amateur Radio frequencies from wanton sell-offs, require the FCC to re-evaluate its rules regarding "unintentional" emitters such as (but not restricted to) BPL and recognize the huge value the Amateur Radio

community offers to the nation in times of emergency and disaster.

If you agree with this agenda, it is very nearly "put up or shut up" time. The time is rapidly approaching when ARRL members will be called on to contact their Congressmen to show local support for the first Agenda item introduced into the US House. In many instances, the first of our contacts will be made by teams of local members with the local offices of their US Representatives or US Senators. If you want these legislative items to pass, we need your active support. To do this, we first need to complete the organization of the Legislative Action Program in the Great Lakes Division.

This is where you might fit in. Our target is to have a team of two or three members in each Congressional District in our three states. These teams will be the ones who will contact local offices of US Representatives and US Senators. Ohio has a total of four Districts of its 17 with two-member lobbying teams. The remaining 13 Districts are either not represented or are represented by no more than one member.

We need your help. ARRL is a "member organization." This means not only that members pay dues to belong and support the League; but that members often need to supply the muscles that are needed to help ARRL protect and promote Amateur Radio. Without at least a small amount of sweat from each of us, ARRL has no muscle . . . and no face. We need you to add muscle and the face on Amateur Radio to your Congressional Representatives. We all make choices throughout our lives. In this instance, we can choose to sit back and do nothing (a time-honored tradition for many people) or we can choose to become involved and make things happen.

If we sit back and do nothing, we have absolutely no right to complain when CC&Rs prevent us or our friends from putting up antennas, or if FCC sells off our bands. How'd you like to lose the 2M or the 20M band? If we do nothing, we also have absolutely no right to brag or take credit when things go well. If you are interested in learning how you can become part of helping pass the legislation I mentioned, please contact your Legislation Action Coordinator, our Division Legislative Action Chair, Val Rose, N8EXV (n8exv@arrl.net) or me at k8je@arrl.org for further information. Let us know you are willing to help. In Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ (wd8pnz@arrl.net).

W8QCB-SK

We regretfully must announce that Earl Gumz, W8QCB became a Silent Key recently. LEARA wishes to express sincere condolences to Earl's family. He will be missed.

Big Events ! (The "Be there or be square" ones!)

**May 18,19 and 20
Dayton Hamvention
Details at www.hamvention.org**

**22 Sep 2007
ARRL Great Lakes Div Convention www.gldc.com**

Preliminary Agenda:

11:30 / 11:55 Opening of Convention

12:00 / 12:55 Seminars by Bob Heil K9EID and Chip Margelli K7JA, Heil Sound

Room 1

1:00/3:55 All about DX & DXpeditions

Room 2

1:00/1:55 Dan Miller, K3UFG Emergency comm

2:00/2:55 ARDF-Bob Frey WA6EZV & Dick Arnett WB4SUV

3:00/3:55 AMSAT Jim Sanford WB4GCS Eagle Project Manager

4:00 / 4:55 seminar - Antennas/Contesting by Tim Duffy K3LR

5:00 / 5:55 Jim K8JE division awards ceremony

6:00 / 7:00 social gathering

7:00 to closing banquet - speaker Joel Harrison W5ZN President

ARRL

30/40 minutes for Wouff Hong at end

**23 Sep 2007
Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show**

Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc.

<http://www.hac.org> (email-click here)

Berea, OH

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

164 Eastland Road

Talk-In: 146.73 MHz (PL 110.9)

Contact: William Beckman, N8LXY

Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc.

PO Box 81252

Cleveland, OH 44181-0252

Phone: 800-CLE-FEST

Email: on Web site click on e-mail

Cleveland Marathon

It might be a little early, but two annual events are just around the corner - The Dayton Hamfest and the Cleveland Marathon, both on Sunday, May 20th. I'm just putting out feelers to see what kind of interest there would be on volunteering for the event. Like the past years, we would be doing the communications for the medical support by manning checkpoints, keeping an eye out for injured runners, and watching out for other happenings.

Please let me know.

Thanks,

Jerry Steele K8CMI

Gdsteele@yahoo.com

Hamfest Listing

15 Apr 2007

52rd Annual Hamfest, Electronics, & Computer Show

Cuyahoga Falls ARC

<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2007.htm>

Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Emidio & Sons Party Center

48 East Bath Road

Talk-In: 147.27

Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS

239 Bermont Avenue

Munroe Falls, OH 44262

Phone: 330-688-2013

Email: hamfest2007@cfarc.org

14 Jul 2007

NOARSFEST

Northern Ohio ARS

Wellington, OH

Lorain County Fairgrounds

Route 18

<http://www.noars.net>

Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater)

Contact: Thomas Porter, W8KYZ

161 Herrmann Drive

Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: 440-930-9115

Email: tporter161@oh.rr.com

29 Jul 2007

Portage Hamfair 2007

Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

<http://www.hamfair.com>

Randolph, OH

Portage County Fairgrounds

4215 Fairgrounds Road

Talk-In: 145.39 MHz -600

Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ3O

9971 Diagonal Road

Mantua, Ohio 44255

Phone: 330-274-8240

Fax: 330-274-8527

Email: KJ3O@arrl.net

19 Aug 2007

50th annual Warren Amateur Radio Association Hamfest

Warren Amateur Radio Association

www.w8vtd.org or www.kc8pvh.com

Warren, OH

Trumbull County Fair Grounds

899 Everett Hull Rd. Cortland, Ohio

44410

Talk-In: 146.970

Contact: Jacqueline Cassidy, KD8DNE

293 Maplewood Dr. Apt 307

Cortland, Ohio 44410

Phone: 330-240-1824

Email: kd8dne@yahoo.com

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

07-Apr-2007

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA

Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM

(440)256-0320

Email: SCOTTFARN-

HAM@ADELPHIA.NET

Location: KIRTLAND LIBRARY

9267 CHILLICOTHE RD

ROUTE 306

1.7 MI S OF I-90

KIRTLAND, OH 44094

07-Apr-2007

Sponsor: PORTAGE COUNTY ARS, INC

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JAMES J AYLWARD

(330)297-7979

Email: KC8PD@PORTCARS.ORG

Location: CENTER OF HOPE

1034 W MAIN ST

RAVENNA, OH 44266

14-Apr-2007

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

15-Apr-2007

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CHARLES S HALL

(216)433-3036

Email: VE@W8HF.COM

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

12-May-2007

Sponsor: CANTON ARC/ MASSILLON ARC

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

Contact: GARY L KLINE

(330)837-2927

Email: WC8W@SSSNET.COM

Location: EMERGENCY PREPAR-

EDNESS CENTER

STARK CNTY SHERIFF OFFICE/ EOC

4500 ATLANTIC BLVD NE

US RT 62E-1/2 MI E OF HARMONT

CANTON, OH 44705

13-May-2007

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS

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

Contact: GARY S DEWEY

(216)642-8705

Email: GDEWEY@EN.COM

Location: TOWN HALL

6652 BRECKSVILLE RD

STATE ROUTE 21

INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

20-May-2007

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CHARLES S HALL

(216)433-3036

Email: VE@W8HF.COM

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

02-Jun-2007

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA

Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM

(440)256-0320

Email: SCOTTFARN-

HAM@ADELPHIA.NET

Location: KIRTLAND LIBRARY

9267 CHILLICOTHE RD

ROUTE 306

1.7 MI S OF I-90

KIRTLAND, OH 44094

02-Jun-2007

Sponsor: PORTAGE COUNTY ARS, INC

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JAMES J AYLWARD

(330)297-7979

Email: KC8PD@PORTCARS.ORG

Location: CENTER OF HOPE

1034 W MAIN ST

RAVENNA, OH 44266

Web Version Extra Content

From the AMSAT News Service:

Bob McGwier, N4HY, AMSAT's VP of Engineering provided the following update on the development of hardware for Suitsat-2.

We had a complete breakthrough on the Odyssey Siren in the past two weeks. It will be used in Suitsat 2, in a terrestrial linear repeater experiment by Viktor Kudielka OE1VKW and friends, who supported its development, and we are already leaping all over the place to applications.

Frank Brickle and I will be doing our SDR code on it over the next several days. The board as shown in the schematic needs some modifications to fix the 3 - ish volt power supply for the Codec and a modified oscillator circuit but we are certain it will all work now.

On the 10.7 MHz IF, I measured 0 dBm max into a 50 ohm load and less than -120 dBm MDS and > 80 dB dynamic range. This is with a BOM of <\$50 in parts and about a \$20 dsp pic chip!

Yesterday in Rick's, W2GPS, lab, with Tom, K3IO, we made the above measurements, hacked on code and turn the thing into a bent pipe transponder. I also did the hilbert transform to make it an inverting transponder. It all worked perfectly.

Detected audio in an SDR-IQ SDR as well as captured IF from the SDR-IQ of the transponder. Can be downloaded and heard from: <http://www.cnssys.com/>

~w2gps/amsat_files/suitsat/ We have to balanced for image and do DC offset correction but the thing works and sounds great as you can hear for yourself! Additional details and pictures of the hardware can be found at <http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=ODYSSEY>

ARISS NEWS:

This week Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, ARISS-Europe chairman discussed the planned amateur radio station to be installed aboard the European Space Agency's Columbus Space Laboratory module which will be added to the International Space Station. The microwave panel antennas, attached to the Meteorite Debris Panels of the Columbus Space Laboratory, will allow operations on new frequencies that will enable ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time. This facility will provide ATV facilities for School contacts and allow continuous transponder operation. Also, With the Columbus module being located at some considerable distance from the other two ARISS stations aboard the ISS, this new antenna configuration will permit parallel operations on the new bands at the same time as the existing operations. The development of the antennas is presently taken care of by the Institute of Telecommunications and Acoustics of the Wrocław University of Technology. The Columbus antennas will work on L-band and S-band.

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

VOICE REPEATERS:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 53.230/R- | • Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone) |
| 146.76/R- | • Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby) |
| 146.88/R- | • Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) |
| 224.90/R- | • Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone) |
| 444.40/R+ | • Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone) |
| 444.70/R+ | • 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 | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE) |
| NBRYX | • 145.07 MHz ⇔ 223.70 MHz Gateway |
| LEARA | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz PBBS |

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