



The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association



FIELD DAY: JUNE 28 & 29

NO Dinner Meeting @ Dimitri's This Month!
LEARA Meeting at Field Day, Saturday, 5 P.M.

As has been the custom now for the past several years, the June LEARA meeting is in conjunction with Field Day on Saturday, June 28, 2008, at Ohio Cleveland Lakefront State Park.

There is no dinner meeting at Dimitri's this month.

LEARA's 2008 Field Day Site will again be located inside the Ohio Cleveland Lakefront State Park, just north of Interstate-90 at the Martin Luther King Boulevard interchange, 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.) Please note that this site is an Ohio State Park and our use during Field Day is not exclusive., so keep this in mind regarding language, noise and trash. Please be considerate! -AR-

SCHEDULE

Saturday—9 a.m.: Site & Equipment Setup

Saturday—2 p.m.: FD Operations Begin

Saturday—5 p.m.: June LEARA Meeting

DIRECTIONS

Take I-90 east or west to the Martin Luther King Blvd exit (exit 177) Head north towards the lake. Follow MLK past 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. Look for the site to the left/west of the parking lots, west of the Ranger Station.



OFFICERS

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Eric Jessen President | N8AUC 440-734-3146 |
| Jim Ozello Vice President | N8XDO 216-475-7218 |
| Mike Cegelski Vice President | K8EHP |
| Bob Winston Secretary | W2THU 216-771-3314 |
| Dave Foran Treasurer | WB8APD 440-942-0618 |
| Eric Jessen License Trustee | N8AUC 440-734-3146 |

TRUSTEES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Joe Prokop | KC8RAN 440-884-5796 |
| Raye Bayun | N8NAP 146.760/R |
| Gary Zimmet | WA8TJL |
| Marv Grossman | W8AZO 440-248-0031 |
| Jacob Kinosh | KC8GHX 440-989-8170 |
| Ron Jakubowski | K2RJ 440-498-1512 |
| John Radney | KC8FOC 216-751-7067 |
| Bryan Torok | N8OOF 440-871-5456 |
| Alex Manuk | WD8JMM |
| Jeff Garvas | N8YNR 216-552-4368 |

TRUSTEES EMERITI

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Al Amster | W8TTY |
| Fred Collins | W8ADW(SK) |
| Pat Shreve | W8GRG (SK) |
| Al Severson | AB8P (SK) |

POINTS OF CONTACT

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Don Raith "Sunshine" | N8DJG 216-921-7546 |
| Mike Cegelski Radio Officer | K8EHP |
| Bryan Torok Radio Officer | N8OOF 440-871-5456 |

The *Spirit of '76 & '88* is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Editor: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

E-mail: editor@leara.org

The Prez Says

by Eric Jessen, N8AUC



Summer is just about here, or it will be by the time you read this. We've already had a few 90 degree days, and the air conditioning already got its first workout. Which leads to two things that are really important this time of year.

First and foremost - is public service. That is what LEARA is primarily about. Races, marathons, and soccer tournaments are one thing. But the most important public service we do, has got

to be Skywarn. Why? Because it directly relates to the protection of life and property. And the life and property in question just might be yours. It's why we make a point of offering spotter training every year at our March meeting. So you'll know what to do, and when to do it. This is the time of year when severe storms can pop up with little or no warning. What you see might be the first observation of a weather situation that could cause damage, injury, or worse. Keep a 2 meter radio handy. When the weather starts to get ugly, tune into the 146.76 repeater. That requires a negative offset, and 110.9Hz PL. Follow the instructions of the net control station, and, if appropriate, report what you see. The participation of trained spotters (and all of you who went to the March LEARA meeting qualify) is the most crucial factor in the success of Skywarn. If you have a desire to be more involved, like being a net control station, contact Don KJ5KB. He'll get you trained, and welcome the help. He responds well to email, so contact him at his call sign at hot-mail.com. Also make sure to check out the Skywarn Practice nets on Wednesday nights at 8PM on the 146.76 repeater.

OK. Enough about the serious stuff. June is also my favorite month of the year. Why? Because it's Field Day. And if I do say so myself, LEARA runs one heck of a Field Day. Field Day is always held during the fourth full weekend in June. This year that's June 28 and 29. Our site is at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park, next to the ranger station. This is just north of I-90 at the MLK exit (for those of you as old as, or older than I am, it's near the old Nike Missile Site). Setup starts Saturday morning, around 9AM, and the operating event begins at 2PM on Saturday. Trying to describe Field Day is difficult. It's like trying to describe what a banana tastes like to someone

(Continued on page 3)

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., **LEARA**, is a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and 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 \$25.00. **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 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.

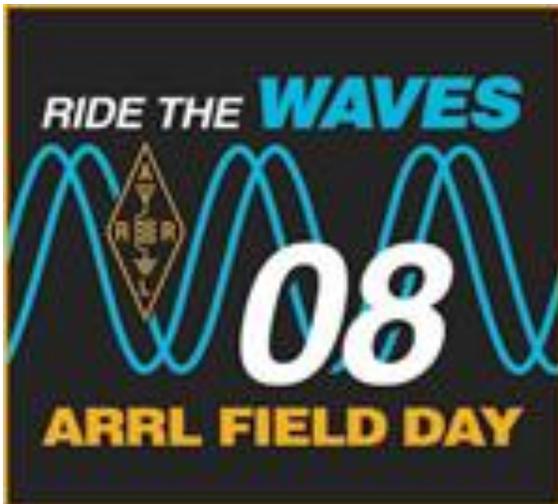
Trustees' Meetings are on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9 a.m. at the Parma-Snow Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2121 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (opposite the Mid-Town Shopping Center). Meetings are open to all current members of **LEARA**.

(Prez Says continued from page 2)

who's never seen one before. It is what you make of it. It's part contest, it's part campout, it's part cookout and picnic, it's part disaster preparedness exercise, it's part socializing and shooting the bull, it's part educational (whaddya mean you aren't buying a dipole - you're making it here and now?). Then there's Sunday morning breakfast, working Alaska for the first time, seeing the look of amazement on a kids face when you teach them to send their name in Morse code for the first time, hearing 20 meters come to life out of nothing as the sun rises, and hearing voices being received literally from outer space - and getting to talk back to them. You just gotta do field day, it's a blast, and there's literally something for everyone.

Oh, and did I mention that the June club meeting is being held at Field Day again this year? I didn't get to do much Field Day last year due to medical reasons, but this year I'm back and I hope to see you there as well!

73 de N8AUC (da prez) -AR-



Silent Key

By Mary Grossman, W8AZO

DICK SHIMA, WB8MTE, former LEARA member and friend of many members, passed away Sunday, June 8th of esophageal cancer. He fought it for nearly a year but finally succumbed.

Dick managed the Motorola Service shop in Beachwood until it was closed, then worked for MicroCenter in Mayfield Heights for several years. -AR-

HAMS NEEDED FOR THE CLEVELAND TRIATHLON - AUGUST 3, 2008

By Tom Kimball, KA8BZB

The annual Cleveland Triathlon will be held on Sunday August 3, 2008 at Cleveland's Inner Harbor at the foot of east Ninth Street. The events (there are actually three different length events) start with a Swim followed by a bicycle ride, and finally a run. The first wave jumps in the lake at 6:45 a.m. (early to beat the heat).

As in the past, Ham Radio plays a critical role in the event, particularly for the bicycle portion where problems can develop quickly and be quite serious. The bicycle portion is conducted on the Shoreway, from near the western end by Don's Lighthouse Inn to the Inner Belt. For the Super Sprint event, cyclists will make one "Lap" of the shoreway course, for the intermediate event - two laps, and for the Olympic Distance - three laps.

The Run portions are held on part of the Shoreway east of E 9th street, and also make a loop around Lakeside/West Third. Finish line is in front of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

For additional details, see the event web site at: <http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/cleveland/athlete.html>

Current plans are to use the 146.88/r repeater. The entire event will finish up before noon. As always, T-Shirts, Vehicle Passes, and donut holes will be provided (bring your own coffee). Provisions can be made for early arrivals or departures, special considerations, etc. Contact Tom KA8BZB if you can help out this year. His e-mail is kaEIGHTbzb @ att.net, or you can call him at 216 - 371 - 2832. -AR-

Upcoming Public Service Events:

August 3—Cleveland Triathlon (*Tom Kimball, KA8BZB*)

August 16, 17—Pedal to the Point (*Jeff Garvas, N8NYR*)

Upcoming LEARA Club Meetings:

July 29—LEARA PICNIC

August 26—Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ—RF Filters.

September 30—First Energy-High Voltage Safety

Field Day Satellite Station

by Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

For the Field Day Satellite Station this year, my Arrow stays home as I will bring my copy of the Cheap Yagi, which I built on Memorial Day in a couple of hours. The plans for the antenna are found in the Summer 2006 copy of CQ-VHF. The article describes a variation of the Cheap Yagi designs by Kent, WA5VJB. If you want to see the original designs, which were made for Rover stations for various VHF contests, go to www.wa5vjb.com, click on the downloads link, then click on Cheap Yagi Antennas.

One of the misconceptions about working satellites is the need for large arrays with full azimuth and elevation control, computer controlled doppler tracking and a whole slew of equipment. I hope anyone who has been to Dayton in the past few years has seen either Keith, W5IU or Drew, KO4MA work stations across the country on satellites using a version of the "Cheap Yagi" or an Arrow antenna in the AMSAT demonstration area.

The antenna was made with 1/2" x 1/2" square unfinished wood molding stock found at the local Home Depot, Lowe's, or other lumber place, along with #8 solid

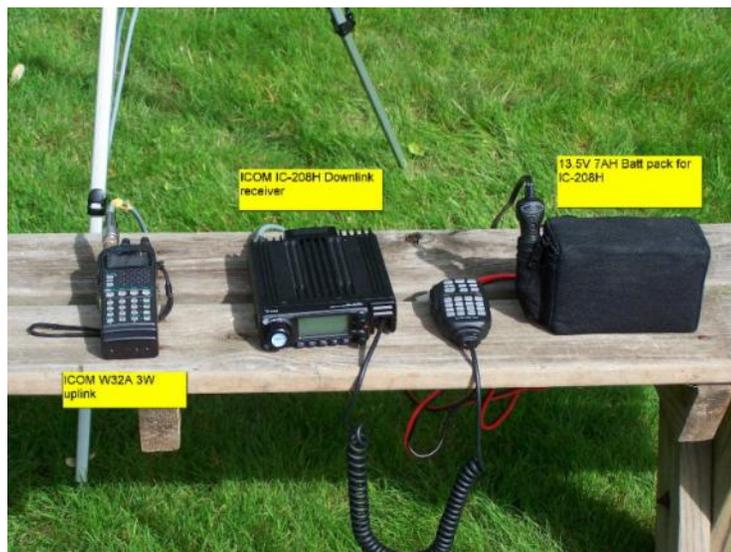


bare copper wire. The total cost of the antenna itself came in under \$20. Throw in some coax assemblies, a PVC tee and some hardware for the camera tripod mount and the whole thing costs less than \$50, ready to use.

In order to test the antenna, I needed to use simple, portable equipment since I wasn't going to hook it up to the "big" rig (IC-910) through a lot of feedline. It was designed and built for portable operation and needed to be tested that way. I used an IC-208H won at a past LEARA Holiday party (Thanks, Bingo Bob!) as the downlink receiver and an IC-W32A as the uplink transmitter I bought (now discontinued) at the local candy store.

I chose the IC-208H as the receive side because it has better sensitivity. The newer satellites, particularly AO-51, hear much better than they transmit, so trading off sensitivity for uplink power is not an issue. The IC-W32A puts out about 3 watts full power under internal battery, and can get up to 5 watts with a good external battery. In reality, with modest gain (between 3 and 6 db) on the antenna, a couple of watts is sufficient for AO-51.

The moment of truth came 2 days later. I tried to hear a pass of AO-27 in the backyard but was marginally successful. After the pass I realized I was handicapped by the trees surrounding the back yard. Good for HF dipoles, not



so good for weak signal UHF. In the evening I moved to the driveway in front of the house.

I set up the tripod and pointed South to wait for AO-51 about 10 minutes before the pass due at 0030Z. I set the IC-208H to 435.160, (which is 10 khz higher than the downlink to compensate) to hear the QRP repeater active on AO-51. I set the IC-W32A to 145.880, right on the uplink frequency for the QRP repeater. If you have an issue on your street with cars speeding by, set one of these things up in the driveway. It's amazing how many people slow down and try to figure out what you're doing!

At 10 degrees elevation, a few minutes into the pass, the first signals were heard. By 25 degrees elevation, the signal was full-quieting and I already had 2 contacts complete. After the first 2 contacts I was beginning to decrease the frequency on the IC-208H as doppler was decreasing the apparent frequency. By mid-pass I had work everyone who had called me and stepped aside to let others make contacts. Since doppler is smaller on 2M and the passband on the AO-51 receiver is wide enough, compensating for doppler is not an issue and no adjustment were made. The hardest part of the whole operation is remembering to write down the call and grid square of the sta-

(Continued on page 5)

LEARA "On The Air"

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets returned in February 2008 on the 146.760 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater and will continue on Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM local time until fall. Everyone is welcome! The 146.880 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater is used, when needed, as a backup. Skywarn nets may be activated on one of these repeaters anytime threatening weather is approaching.

During the past month, the weekly Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net had a total of eighteen check-ins recorded. The following were recorded to have participated:

Jeff K8JTK, Steve K8SAS, Fritz K8WLF, Travis KB8QIE, Chuck KC8EHA, Mark KC8FQV, Marc KC8SIE, Jim KC8YYS, David KD8ACO, Rich KD8FVJ, Matt W8EBB, Ray WA4WGA, and Russ WB8UPA.

Net Control Stations: Marc KC8SIE and Don KJ5KB.

Thursday Club Net

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly club net is held every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM local time 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. You do not have to be a member of LEARA to participate.

Since the club net is a practice and informal net, LEARA would like to recognize those who take the time to check

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tions contacted.

For Field Day, I don't expect making contacts will be as easy. 2 years ago it took well into the evening to make the first QSO (2nd last pass of anything available). Realistically, it's a contest and the competition will run more power with better antennae. I will QRO to about 10-20 watts (for safety of the human rotor) using the IC-910 portable for uplink and downlink. We may not have a lot of success, but we will get the bonus points plus a few more contacts for the log some time during the event.

Once we get the first QSO and secure the bonus, I may try the equipment used above, just for the challenge. If time allows, which should not be a problem at the time of this writing, I'll put together longer version of the Cheap Yagis for the VHF/UHF station to work CW/SSB on 2M and 70cm. Hopefully you can come out and join us at the Field Day site for this and other fun, festivities and, of

in and keep the net active and alive. During the past month, the weekly Thursday Club Net had a total of fifty-eight check-ins. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Gene K8ECL, Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, Phil K8PJM, Steve K8SAS, Terry K8TJM, Matt KB1LCS, Mark KC8FQV, Steve KC8JMG, Jeannie KC8MNV, Joe KC8RAN, Marc KC8SIE, Jeanne KC8TJH, Jess KD8ACJ, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Ken KG8DN, Don KJ5KB, Eric N8AUC, Howie N8CXA, Bob N8QXF, Tom N8UAZ, Bill N8UPZ, Chris NM3M, Bob W2THU, Matt W8EBB, Stuart W8STU, Gary WA8TJL, and Jim WA8ZHN.

Net Control Stations: Ken KG8DN, Bob W2THU, Terry K8TJM, David KD8ACO, and Eric N8AUC.

Saturday SSTV Net

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly slow scan TV net is held every Saturday evening from October through May at 8:00 PM local time on the 146.880 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater. Currently, the SSTV net is in summer vacation mode. The SSTV nets will start-up again in the fall during the month of October. Now is your chance to get your SSTV station set-up during the summer break.

The slow scan TV software recommended is MMSSTV. This free software is available online, just google MMSSTV for a wealth of information. However, any SSTV program can be used. Are you new to this mode of operation? Contact any of the net control stations for assistance getting started! Even if you don't have a slow scan TV setup yet, you're still welcome to check in to the net just to say hello.

During the past month, the following were recorded to have participated:

Terry K8TJM, David KD8ACO, Bill N8IJG, John N8MVP, and John N8OBJ.

Net Control Stations: Terry K8TJM and John N8OBJ.

Wanted! Net Control Stations

Interested in practicing your net control skills? Any member of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association can be a net control operator for one or all of the nets held on one of the club's repeaters. Never tried it you say? No problem. Now would be a really good time to start. No lines ... no waiting. It's as easy as getting in touch with me and we'll schedule you into the rotation. If you should have any questions or requests for assistance to get started, just contact me at one of our club meetings or by using any of my contact information in the membership directory. Hope to talk with you on the air soon! -AR-

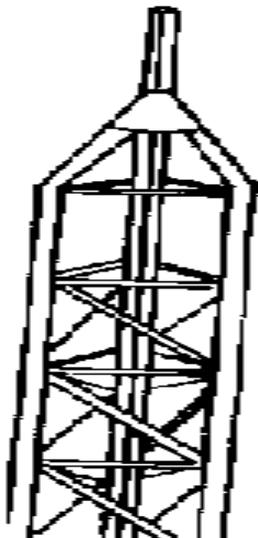
Hamfest Listing

12 Jul 2008 NOARSFEST: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.noars.net>
Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater)
Contact: John Schaaf, K8JWS
Phone: 216-696-5709
Email: noarsfest2008@noars.net
Wellington, OH
Lorain County Fairgrounds, Route 18

12 Jul 2008 7th NW PA Hamfest Union City & Wattsburg Wireless Associations
<http://www.nw-pa-hamfest.com>
Talk-In: 146.700 (PL 186.2)
Contact: Ron Rycek, KB3QBB
Phone: 814-833-6829
Email: kb3qbb@arrl.net Erie, PA
Greene Township Municipal Building
9333 Tate Road

27 Jul 2008 Portage Hamfair '08 Portage Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.portagearc.org>
Talk-In: 144.790/145.390 (no PL)
Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ3O
Phone: 330-274-8240
Email: kj3o@arrl.net
Randolph, OH
Portage County Fairgrounds

17 Aug 2008 Warren Amateur Radio Association
<http://kc8pvh.com> **Talk-In: 146.970**
Contact: Emily Wells, KC8RAL
Phone: 330-394-3560
Email: kc8ral@yahoo.com
Trumbull County Fairgrounds
899 Evertt Hull Road



Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

28-Jun-2008

Sponsor: 20 OVER 9 ARC
 Time: 10:00 (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: ALLAN AVNET
 (330)549-3051
 Email: AB8AA@ARRL.NET
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: EMA BUILDING
 700 INDUSTRIAL RD
 YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44509

12-Jul-2008

Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS
 Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: BRUCE M FERRY
 (330)929-2766
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 501 W MARKET ST
 HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE
 AKRON, OH 44303

13-Jul-2008

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS
 Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: GARY S DEWEY
 (216)642-8705
 Email: GDEWEY@EN.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: TOWN HALL
 6652 BRECKSVILLE RD
 STATE ROUTE 21
 INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

17-Jul-2008

Sponsor: MAHONING VALLEY ARA
 Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: JAMES T VIELE
 (330)534-1394
 Email: W8JV@YAHOO.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
 WOOD ST - FACILITIES BUILDING
 FOR DIRECTIONS CLICK ON:
 WWW.MVARA.ORG
 YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44501

20-Jul-2008

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

26-Jul-2008

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

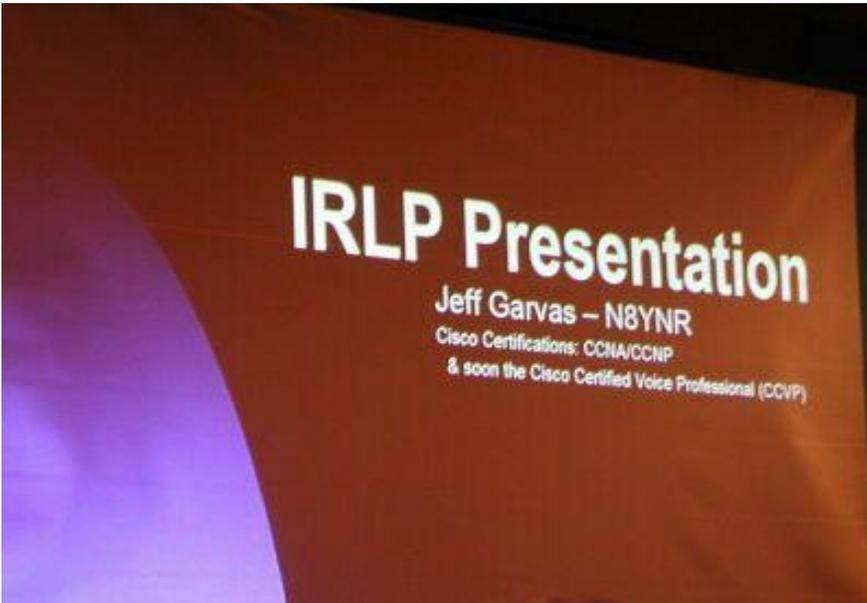
27-Jul-2008

Sponsor: WARREN ARA
 Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: WILLIAM H SHOWERS
 (330)872-1929
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: NEWTON FALLS COMMUNITY CENTER
 52 E QUARRY ST
 REGISTRATION AT 6:30 PM!
 NEWTON FALLS, OH 44444

02-Aug-2008

Sponsor: PORTAGE COUNTY ARS, INC
 Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: JAMES J AYLWARD
 (330)297-7979
 Email: KC8PD@PORTCARS.ORG
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: CENTER OF HOPE
 1034 W MAIN ST
 RAVENNA, OH 44266

May Meeting Pictures



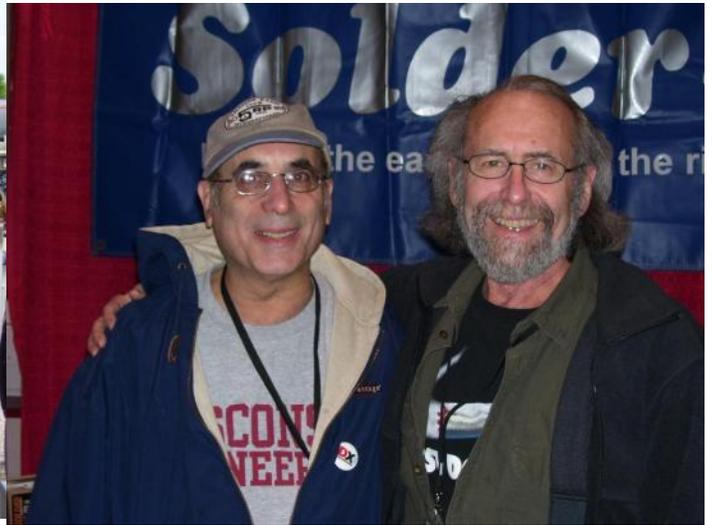
If You Miss a LEARA Meeting, You Miss a Lot!



LEARA Short Takes

- Congratulations to **Jim McMillan, WA8ZHN**, who has just earned his Amateur Extra Class license.

LEARA at DAYTON



LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association -Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969-

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- IRLP | • 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 |

- INTERNET: • www.leara.org