



The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

Power Line Safety Considerations—Mark Vallo of First Energy September 30, 2008 Dimitri's Dinner Meeting



One of the more prominent headlines in the news this summer was about a ham radio father-son team who were electrocuted while trying to erect an antenna in their back yard. It seems that they lost control of the mast they were erecting and it came in contact with a 12.5 KV distribution feeder which ran along the top of their power poles in the yard. Accidents like this are often rooted in a lack of knowledge and respect for the type of power lines that can be found in the typical residential neighborhood. Mark Vallo of First Energy will present a pro-

gram on power line safety as it applies to our Amateur Radio installations and operations. This program is a “must see” for any Amateur who has an outdoor antenna where there are overhead power lines.

The dinner and meeting are at our usual place, Dimitri's Restaurant, at 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 begin around 7:30.** 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 A.M. 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 www.leara.org and make your reservation through the club's website. -AR-

October Elections Nominees

David Noeth KD8ACO
Eric Jessen N8AUC *
Mike Cegelski K8EHP *
John Radney KC8FOC *
Jeff Kopcak K8JTK
Ron Jakubowski K2RJ *

** indicates an incumbent.*

Candidate biographies will be included with the October newsletter. See page 4 for more information.



OFFICERS	
Eric Jessen President	N8AUC 440-734-3146
Jim Ozello Vice President	N8XDO 216-475-7218
Mike Cegelski Vice President	K8EHP 216-252-6640
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



.It's September already. The kids are back in school, the leaves haven't fallen yet, and the weather is still nice. Football season has started. As you may know, I'm a football-aholic. I don't care if it's high school, college, or the NFL, I love football. Some people think it's a disease and requires some kind of 12-step program. If it is, I'm not going to a football rehab program. And today the Browns begin their regular season, with a lot of "great expectations". As long as they win a few key rivalry games (like beating the Steelers), I really don't care. I just really, really like football.

September also brings us to the end of what we refer to around here as "public service event season". In case you've never read that little blurb in the fine print at the bottom of page 2 in each issue of the newsletter, LEARA is an organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and Public Service. In light of that, I want to shower some special recognition to the fine hams who helped with River Run. They were: Ed, KE8ZZ, Tom - KA8BZB, Karl - KB8VXE, Alex WD8JMM, Gary - AF8A, Jim - N8XDO, Marv - W8AZO, Leone - KB8VBR. For reasons of self-modesty, I'm leaving my name off that list, because even though I was there too, this isn't about me. It's about recognition and praise for the rest of the crew of volunteers who helped out.

Based upon the dwindling number of LEARA members who come out for these events, I believe we need to take a look at ourselves. There aren't so many of these events each year that they are a burden. (Unless you happen to be the organizer of more than one of them - and we try really hard not to do that.) If you didn't come out and assist with one of these worthwhile events this year, ask yourself "Why not?" I know that sometimes stuff (like illness) happens in your life and you just can't do it that time. But to help out with just one of these a year isn't asking that much. Now, let me give you just a few reasons why you should make it a point to help with public service:

- 1) Helping out with these public service events is how we "pay the rent" on the Billions of Dollars worth of radio spectrum to which our

(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)

licenses give us access.

2) You get to meet new people (and probably make a few new friends), with whom you are sharing a common goal in these events. Having a common goal makes this much easier. And having more friends is better than having fewer friends.

3) "Giving back to the community" isn't just a trite phrase, it's the right thing to do.

4) These events, although they seem like work before you do it, are really a lot of fun.

5) These events are really practice for us. Practice in directed net operations, which is absolutely critical during times of REAL need.

With a membership of about 300 hams, we as an organization should not have to go begging for volunteers. Someone once told me that "to whom much is given, much will be expected". In our case, the "much that is given" is the wide chunks of radio spectrum to which we have access. In return, the "much" that is expected, really isn't all that much. Next year, when there's an event coming up, come on out and help. It ends up being a lot of fun, you just might learn something, you'll probably enjoy yourself more than you thought you would, and it's the right thing to do.

It's time for kickoff. See you at Dimitri's on September 30!

73 de N8AUC (da prez) -AR-

Ohio State Parks On-the-Air 2008 Report

by Eric Jessen, N8AUC

The first event of LEARA's "busy weekend" was the first Ohio State Parks on the Air contest. Sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), it was held on Saturday, September 6. The purpose of this event was to promote Amateur Radio and the Ohio State Parks. Because people enjoyed Field Day so much, we decided to make this like a "mini Field Day".

The rain stopped about an hour before we began setup. We planned to start at 9AM, but actually ended up getting going at more like 9:30. Gary - WA8TJL commented that he drove through rain on the way to the contest site from his home in the

CLEVELAND HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SHOW

Sunday, September 28th
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

<http://www.hac.org>

eastern suburbs. Our site was the area of Cleveland Lakefront State Park called "Upper Edgewater". The funny part about this was that the LEARA trustee who absolutely insisted we use Edgewater instead of our usual Field Day site was nowhere to be found on Saturday. The tent was setup, and the antennas were hung low in the trees in plenty of time for the beginning of the event, which started at 12:00 noon. As the day progressed, the sky cleared, and that glowing orb in the sky (called the Sun) came out making for an absolutely gorgeous day. We saw sailboats on the lake, and a couple of guys parasailing, which was quite an interesting sight.

A number of club members stopped by, including Darren K8DMT, and John N8ABD. Several non-ham visitors stopped by to see what we were doing. One of the Park Rangers was even a ham, and he visited us several times throughout the day (although I don't remember his call sign). Ron, N8MPF stopped by and guest operated for a while, making an impressive string of contacts on 40 meters SSB, despite conditions that weren't all that great. The power line noise level in that part of the park runs a constant S-8 on the HF bands, so it's a good thing we don't operate Field Day from that location. And if we do this again next year, we'll probably use our Field Day site for its lower noise level.

When it was all said and done, we had 94 SSB contacts and 9 CW contacts in the log, and we worked stations in 19 different Ohio State Parks. This made our total score 1,957 points. It seemed like there were very few stations operating CW for this event, probably because there was no extra scoring for CW contacts like there is for Field Day. How did we rank? I guess we'll find out once everyone submits their log sheets, but I think we did pretty well. Everyone had fun, some people learned some new things, so it was a worthwhile event. It remains to be seen if this will become an annual event. I, for one, hope it does. -AR-

Trustee Elections at October Meeting

by Tom Kimball, KA8BZB

Annual LEARA elections will take place at the annual meeting of the association on October 28, 2008. All LEARA members in good standing will receive a ballot by mail about the first week in October. Ballots may be returned by mail (an envelope is provided) or may be delivered to the meeting. Returned ballot envelopes must be signed by the member and contain his/her callsign legibly printed. Specific instructions for voting will be included with the ballot. Renewal notices will also be included.

Candidates are as follows:

David Noeth KD8ACO
Eric Jessen N8AUC *
Mike Cegelski K8EHP *
John Radney KC8FOC *
Jeff Kopcak K8JTK
Ron Jakubowski K2RJ *

* indicates an incumbent.

Candidate biographies will be included with the October newsletter. They may also be found sooner at www.leara.org.

If you have not received your ballot by October 14th, contact Tom KA8BZB (KAeightBZB@att.net) or 216 - 371 - 2832) to obtain a replacement in time to vote. -AR-

ESTATE SALE

Please contact Cliff Bade, W8CJB, at cliff@clecom.com if you have interest in any of the following. Because the radios are older, buyers should make offers, knowing the proceeds will go directly to his widow:

1. Kenwood TR 7800 2 meter
2. Yaesu FT720 RH
3. Yaesu FT 102
4. Yaesu FT 51R
5. Yaesu FT207R w/ NC2 and new 2-slot charger
6. Regency AR2 amplifier
7. Heath 2102 SWR bridge
8. Icom IC27H
9. Yaesu G 450 A Rotor
10. Devry scope
11. 30' tower with TA33 and 2m ringo ranger (still up)
Free for the removal.

2008 River Run Report

by Eric Jessen, N8AUC

Usually, just after Labor Day each year, a group of hams gathers in the before dawn gloom in an empty, darkened parking lot in suburbia. HT's at the ready, batteries fully charged, they huddle around the trunk of a parked car awaiting maps and assignments. This is how the annual Cleveland Clinic Sports Health River Run begins for a group of LEARA members each year. And on Sunday, September 7th, a group of 8 LEARA members proudly carried on the tradition, by gathering in the K-Mart parking lot at Bagley and Engle Road in Middleburg Heights just before sunrise for the 2008 version of River Run.

River Run is a half marathon and inline skate race through the scenic Rocky River Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks, beginning at Wallace Lake in Berea, and ending 13.1 miles later near the Memorial Ball Fields in Rocky River, just south of the intersection of Hilliard and Wooster Roads. The walkers started shortly after 7AM, the inline skaters started at about 7:50AM, and the runners started at 8AM. As usual, the inline skaters finished in about half an hour, for an average course speed of about 26MPH. They wound their way through the twists and turns of Valley Parkway, in a pack, about like what you'd see at an automobile race. It was quite a site to see.

Fortunately, the skaters finished their race before the rain started, which coated the roadway with a slick, wet sheen. Did I mention that the wheels on those skates have no treads? The rest of the participants, except one, finished the event without incident. That one unlucky soul only had to be treated for a case of "road rash". After the event, some of the crew gathered near the finish line for a post-race snack. This year Geppetto's provided the pizza, and Panera Bread provided the bagels.

A sincere thanks, and a hearty "well done" are in order for the following hams, who made up this year's River Run Radio Team: Ed - KE8ZZ, Tom - KA8BZB, Karl - KB8VXE, Alex WD8JMM, Gary - AF8A, Jim - N8XDO, Marv - W8AZO, Leone - KB8VBR, and Eric - N8AUC.

Also a special thank you to the NASA - Glenn ARC for the use of their 2M repeater, which covers the depths of the Rocky River Metropark Valley like a well made glove. -AR-

LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information

by David Noeth, KD8ACO

The Saturday night LEARA SSTV net will be returning on October 4, 2008. If you haven't done so already, now is the time to get your SSTV station setup and 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 the last week in October. 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.

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 in and keep the net active and alive. During the past month, the weekly Thursday Club Net had a total of fifty-four (54) check-ins. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Andrew AB8MO, Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, Steve K8SAS, John KA8GZA, Mark KB8FKM, Amy KB8WCF, Mark KC8FQV, John KC8KI, Jeannie KC8MNW, Jeanne KC8TJH, Jessica KD8ACJ, David KD8ACO, Roy KD8AJX, Warren KD8ATT, Eddie KD8FTS, Don KD8ICR, Ken KG8DN, John N8ABD, Don N8DJG, John N8OBJ, Steve N8OHT, Rich N8RB, Tom N8UAZ, Bill N8UPZ, Jeff N8YNR, John NY8FD, Bob W2THU, Matt W8EBB, Ed W8IE, and Stuart W8STU.

Net Control Stations: Terry K8TJM, Ken KG8DN, Eric N8AUC, and Jeanne KC8TJH.

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

9/25/08	Jeanne	KC8TJH
10/2/08	David	KD8ACO
10/9/08	Ken	KG8DN
10/16/08	Bob	W2THU

10/23/08	Eric	N8AUC
10/30/08	Jeanne	KC8TJH

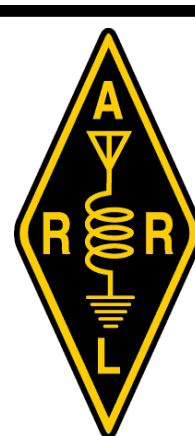
Saturday SSTV Net

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. The SSTV net will be starting-up again on the first weekend in October (October 4, 2008 to be exact). Now is the time to get your SSTV station setup and on the air.

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 or to ask for more information about this interesting mode.

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-



LEARA is an Affiliated Club of the ARRL. If LEARA members join or renew their ARRL membership through the club, the LEARA treasury gets to "pocket" a portion of your dues. Another neat way to support your local club!

Hamfest Listing

28 Sep 2008 Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland, Inc.

<http://www.hac.org>

Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9)

Contact: William Beckman, N8LXY
c/o Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland, Inc.
PO Box 81252

Cleveland, OH 44181-0252

Phone: 800-CLE-FEST

Email: on Web site click email

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
164 Eastland Road, Berea, OH

26 Oct 2008 Hamfest and Auction
Massillon Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.marcradio.org>

Talk-In: 147.18/78 (PL 110.9)

Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ

3420 Briardale Circle NW

Massillon, OH 44646

Phone: 330-837-3091

Email: truss@sssnet.com

Massillon Boys and Girls Club

730 Duncan Street SW

25 Jan 2009 Tusco ARC

<http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm>

Talk-In: 146.730 (PL 71.9)

Contact: Kyle Quillen, KD8HDJ

Phone: 330-231-6269

Email: hamfest@tuscoarc.org

Strasburg, OH

Wallick Auction House

965 North Wooster Avenue

Div: Great Lakes

Sect: Ohio

15 Feb 2009 Mansfield Mid-Winter
Hamfest & Computer Show

InterCity Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.w8we.org>

Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9)

Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG

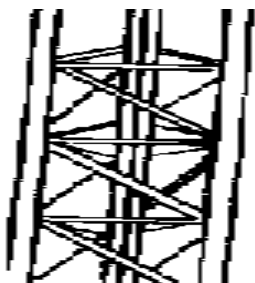
1094 Beal Road

Mansfield, OH 44905

Phone: 419-589-2415

Fax: 419-884-6177

Email: metal07man@yahoo.com



Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

28-Sep-2008

Sponsor: HAMFEST ASSOC OF
CLEVELAND

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

Contact: JON G ANHOLD

Email: N8USK@N8USK.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: BEREA PUBLIC LI-
BRARY

7 BEREA COMMONS

[HTTP://HAC.ORG/VE](http://HAC.ORG/VE)

BEREA, OH 44017

28-Sep-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

04-Oct-2008

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA

Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins al-
lowed)

Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM

(440)256-0320

Email: [SCOTTFARN-
HAM@ROADRUNNER.COM](mailto:SCOTTFARN-
HAM@ROADRUNNER.COM)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: KIRTLAND LIBRARY

9267 CHILLICOTHE RD

ROUTE 306

1.7 MI S OF I-90

KIRTLAND, OH 44094

11-Oct-2008

Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERI-
CAN RED CROSS

Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins al-
lowed)

Contact: BRUCE M FERRY

(330)929-2766

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN RED
CROSS

501 W MARKET ST

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

AKRON, OH 44303

19-Oct-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

21-Oct-2008

Sponsor: PIONEER AR FELLOW-
SHIP

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: RONALD D LIEVING

(330)724-5981

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AKRON BAPTIST TEM-
PLE

2324 MANCHESTER RD

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED

AKRON, OH 44314

25-Oct-2008

Sponsor: WRECS

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

Contact: ROBERT C GAUSS

(330)562-3328

Email: N8ZB@YAHOO.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: BENTLEYVILLE VIL-
LAGE HALL/CHAGRIN FALLS

6253 CHAGRIN RIVER RD

CORNER SOLON RD & RIVER RD

BASEMENT

BENTLEYVILLE, OH 44022

26-Oct-2008

Sponsor: MASSILLON HAMFEST

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

Contact: GARY L KLINE

(330)837-2927

Email: WC8W@SSSNET.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MASSILLON BOYS &
GIRLS CLUB

730 DUNCAN ST SW

1 BLOCK S OF SR #21

ON WALNUT ST

September LEARA Trustee Meeting Minutes

by Bob Winston, W2THU

Minutes of the meeting of Trustees, 13 September 2008
At the Snow Road Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library in Parma, Ohio. Trustees Present: W2THU, W8AZO, N8AUC, N8OOF, WA8TJL, N8NAP, N8XDO, KC8FOC, N8YNR and WB8APD.
Guests Present: K8JTK and KA8BZB

1. The meeting was called to order by N8AUC at 0912
2. There was one correction to the July 2008 minutes. KA8BZB was nominated to be on the election committee, not to run for trustee. W2THU then moved and N8XDO seconded a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. This motion passed unanimously.
3. The treasurer, WB8APD reported how much the club has in the bank and that it is more than sufficient to cover current expenses.
4. The membership chair, W8AZO reported that the club has 240 paid up members.
5. Further discussion regarding a comprehensive plan for LEARA's goals, that had been initiated by K2RJ at the July Trustee's meeting, was tabled due to his absence.
6. N8YNR reported the progress on fundraising projects, such as selling coffee cups or T-shirts with the LEARA logo. They are still working on improving the resolution of the LEARA logo for transfer to these objects. KC8GHX is helping to do this.
7. N8AUC reported on the status of the IRLP installation. After a thorough technical discussion it was felt that one more visit to the 146.88 site is necessary to resolve hardware issues. N8AUC and WB8APD agreed to go up there next Saturday, 20 September 2008, at 0900. They hope to be joined by N8YNR and WD8JMM. After that work is completed, software adjustments can be made remotely.
8. The technical committee report consisted of a statement by N8AUC that the 146.76 west input was not working. N8NAP thought the link to the hill might be down. But, after further discussion, it was felt that user(s) simply were not transmitting with the mandatory PL to bring up the remote receiver.
8. Marv, W8AZO reported on the status of the 146.76 repeater site relocation. Tri-C has refused to allow the use of their rooftops. W8AZO had also written to the Beachwood mayor for permission to use one of their facilities

but no response was received. KC8FOC offered his QTH in Warrensville Heights as a temporary home for the repeater in the event we are ordered off the roof of its present location. Other potential sites in the immediate area were mentioned and will be pursued.

9. The 444.40 repeater will be moved to N8YNR's QTH when the club is ordered to remove all the equipment from its present location on the hill, if not sooner. Jeff suggested that we begin removing what we can as soon as possible, as this could be a complicated procedure without the use of the building elevators.
10. As usual, LEARA will participate in the Cleveland Hamfest by setting up and manning a table. The Hamfest will be held on Sunday, 28 September 2008. A signup sheet was passed around.
11. The elections committee report was given by KA8BZB. He stated that there will be 4 incumbents (N8AUC, K2RJ, KC8FOC and K8EHP) plus two nominees (K8JTK and KD8ACO). Tom also stated that the elections committee should now be dissolved which lead to a lively discussion and a review of the bylaws. Biographies of those running will be sent to the members via email and published in the October Newsletter. This will reduce the number of pages mailed to the members with the ballots, saving postage. W8AZO, WD8JMM and KA8BZB will prepare and mail the ballots.

NEW BUSINESS:

N8XDO will start working on the menu for the November holiday dinner.

WA8TJL asked if LEARA wants to offer radio classes again. The turnout last year was poor. He said that we need to do a better job promoting the classes. WA8TJL moved and W2THU seconded a motion that LEARA provide an entry level class into amateur radio early in the first quarter of 2009. This motion passed unanimously. WA8TJL and N8XDO will organize the classes as before.

The meeting was adjourned at 1122.

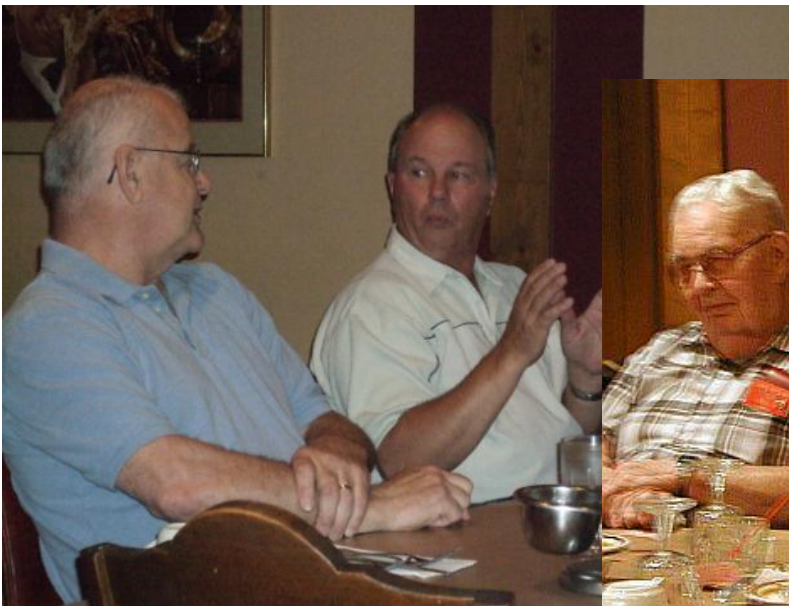
Respectfully submitted:
Robert M. Winston, W2THU
Club Secretary
-AR-

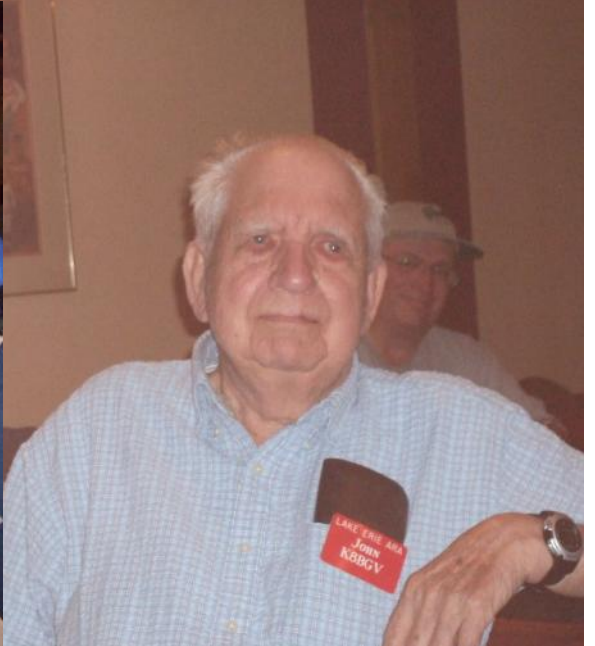
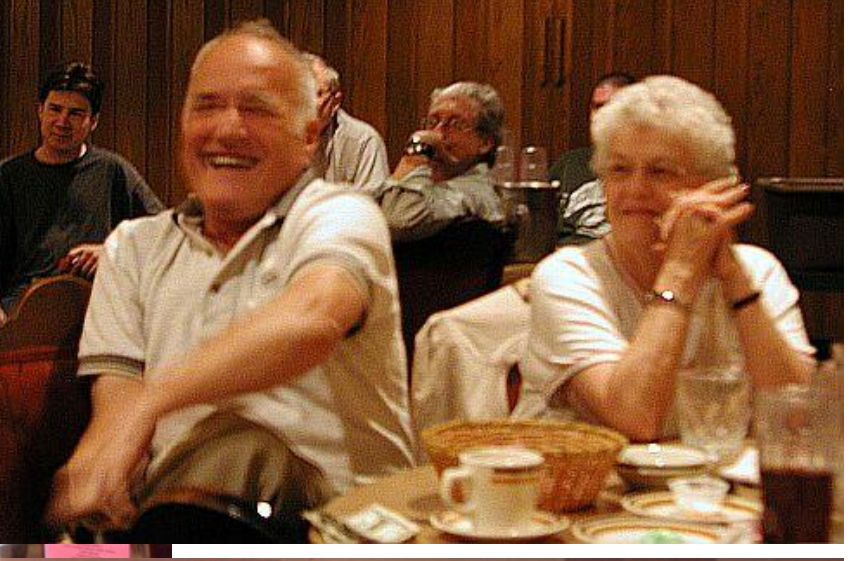


River Run Pictures



LEARA Meeting Pix





RF Safety Corner

by Gregory Lapin, PhD, PE, N9GL
Chairman, ARRL RF Safety Committee

After writing my last column I was amazed by the number of people who wrote to tell me that cell phones are dangerous, and they have proof! I was directed to one of a number of videos that were available on YouTube, showing kernels of popcorn on a table that popped when one to four cell phones around them were transmitting. "It's obvious," reasoned these correspondents, "that if a cell phone can generate enough heat to pop corn, then it can also fry your brain cells!"

If you haven't witnessed one of those videos, you should. Pretty scary stuff, isn't it? When I first saw one of these videos it gave me pause. It didn't seem possible but there it was on the screen. These videos are copies or remakes of a professionally produced version from Cardo Systems, a manufacturer of Bluetooth remote headsets. Popping corn with a cell phone is clearly a hoax. Similar hoaxes include hard boiling an egg with a cell phone. Take a look to see how it is done (needless to say, every ham should immediately realize how dangerous this trick could be to perform).

Just as radio amateurs must prevent their stations from exposing people to unsafe levels of RF, cell phones are extensively tested to confirm that exposure to users will be under the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE). These thresholds are far below the levels of energy absorption that can raise the temperature of tissue noticeably -- really far below what it would take to pop a kernel of corn. If you're interested in experimenting, place a small container of water between the antennas of two or more operating cell phones and try to measure a change in temperature.

What about Cardo Systems? They claim that the hoax that they foisted on the public was meant to be humorous. That message got lost on YouTube and it had many people convinced that cell phones (and by extension, any RF source -- including Amateur Radio) are inherently dangerous. People continue to use their cell phones in spite of the danger, just as smokers continue to light up. It could be possible that Cardo's original message was

that these things are dangerous so you'd better buy a hands-free device, such as a Bluetooth headset.

After their hoax was revealed, Cardo Systems placed the following disclaimer on their Web site (they have since removed nearly all references to their popcorn hoax):

The contents of these videos are fictitious and humorous optical illusions, designed for entertainment. Nothing in these videos is meant to imply that mobile phones can make popcorn and Cardo Systems, Inc. ("Cardo") specifically disclaims that these videos contain any portrayal of facts or comments about safety. Cardo disclaims any liability for the information in these videos.

I have nothing against hands-free cell phone devices. I find it a little strange to see a Bluetooth appliance mounted in someone's ear, even when the phone is not in use; the comparison to Lieutenant Uhura in Star Trek is hard to avoid. There are lots of good reasons to use a hands-free device, including making the roads safer; however, avoiding brain-cell-frying is not one of them.

I also wonder about the wisdom of someone trying to sell an RF emitter that is mounted on the ear by frightening people about the use of another RF emitter. Clearly they targeted those who have no idea of how anything works.

Are there any limits to what can be said in order to sell a product? The Cardo Systems disclaimer passes this video off as humor. I consider it to have much more daunting effects. Much of the public is already suspicious of technology and well prepared to believe any news of bad effects, no matter how improbable. The popcorn video is not the first scam that scared people into spending money to protect themselves from RF energy. It was a small sticker that fit under the phone's battery and only cost \$19.95, a small price to pay for to protect your health.

A similar hoax device was advertised around the same time. It was called an "antenna extender" and claimed to be able to boost your cell phone signal so it would work in more locations. Amazingly, it looked identical to the cell phone protection device and was being sold for the same amount. So which is it? Something that decreases the cell phone signal in order to protect you from disease, or something that boosts the cell phone signal? -AR-

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- | | |
|----------------|--|
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| 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) |
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| 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.)

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