



The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

DIGITAL TV—The Transition, The Plan and How it Works At January 27, 2009 Dimitri's Dinner Meeting

This month we have a special treat in store for those hardy club members who don't mind venturing out of their warm shack on a cold and snowy January for an evening with their fellow LEARA members! Dave Kennett, W8KFJ, aided by Bob Leskovec, K8DTS, Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, and Raye Bayun, N8NAP will be bringing us up-to-date about those converter boxes we have all been hearing about and what is really going to happen on February 17th. Dave has

a long career in broadcast radio and television engineering, punctuated by many years on the production side of the television industry. 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 con-



DUES NOTICE!

LEARA Annual Dues are now past-due and payable at the rate of \$25. They can be paid at the January meeting. Pay your dues... Support your club!

sist 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-

OFFICERS	
Alex Manuk President	WD8JMM 216-459-8523
Jim Ozello Vice President	N8XDO 216-475-7218
Eric Jessen Vice President	N8AUC 440-734-3146
Bob Winston Secretary	W2THU 216-771-3314
Dave Foran Treasurer	WB8APD 440-942-0618
Eric Jessen License Trustee	N8AUC 440-734-3146
TRUSTEES	
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Raye Bayun	N8NAP
Gary Zimmet	WA8TJL 440-446-0402
Marv Grossman	W8AZO 440-248-0031
David Noeth	KD8ACO
Ron Jakubowski	K2RJ 440-498-1512
John Radney	KC8FOC 216-469-4361
Bryan Torok	N8OOF 440-871-5456
Mike Cegelski	K8EHP 216-252-6640
Jeff Garvas	N8YNR jeff@cia.net
TRUSTEES EMERITI	
Al Amster	W8TTY
Don Raith	N8DJG
Fred Collins	W8ADW(SK)
Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)
POINTS OF CONTACT	
Don Raith "Sunshine"	N8DJG 216-921-7546
Ron Jakubowski Radio Officer	K2RJ 440-498-1512
Bryan Torok Radio Officer	N8OOF 440-871-5456
<p>The <i>Spirit of '76 & '88</i> is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 2nd Sunday of the month.</p> <p>Editor: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ</p> <p>E-mail: editor@leara.org</p>	

The Prez Says

by Alex Manuk, WD8JMM



Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope everyone survived the holidays in fine shape, and that 2009 brings you much happiness, health, and prosperity.

It's a new year, time for new beginnings. Some folks call them resolutions, but I think we all tend to look at this time of year as an opportunity to take stock in ourselves and make plans for change.

As you do that this year, think of how you can increase your involvement in amateur radio. Perhaps it's time to dust off that HF rig that sat idle through the recent sunspot minimum. Maybe you've wanted to learn CW, or increase your code speed, or just get back on the air more often. I'd like to invite you to make LEARA a part of your new year by participating in club meetings, public service events, and on-the-air activities.

One of the great benefits of membership in a local ham club is the assistance that can be obtained from it's members. If you're not on the air because of radio trouble, or your antenna needs a little work, or you just need help getting the rig hooked back up again, feel free to contact one of the LEARA trustees. We'll be happy to help – that's one of the reasons we're here.

The date for the Digital Television Changeover, February 17th, is rapidly approaching. As amateur radio operators we tend to have a leg up on the competition when it comes to the technical stuff, but this change will affect everyone in the country. ARRL has suggested that amateur radio operators make themselves available to assist neighbors and friends in preparing for this changeover. I think it's a great idea which can only improve our reputation and standing in the community.

In light of that; The program at our next meeting, January 27th, will be Digital Television, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Come on out and check out what we're in for next month when TV as we know it ceases to exist. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors as well, and prepare to have your questions answered. See you then! -AR-

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.

IRLP on '88– Node 4282

Information culled from the IRLP.net website

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

After many months of technical problems, scheduling conflicts and fighting Murphy's false-starts, The IRLP system is finally active on the 146.88 club repeater. In fact you may have heard some regular contacts from Jim, W8ERI, in Breckenridge, CO and some others from Sweden and Germany. How can YOU utilize IRLP? Well, maybe you have a friend you would like to QSO with in another city or country (without having to wait for the sunspots to return!) Or, maybe you will be travelling and would like to QSO with your friends or family back home. In the latter case, all you have to do is find an IRLP repeater and connect to node 4282 and *voila*, you will be linked to the 88 machine! In the former case, you would have to look up the node number for the repeater that covers the area you wish to connect with and make sure your friend is there, listening for you.

Below is some information culled from the IRLP website that gives an overview of what IRLP is and is not...

Goal

The aim of IRLP is to reliably and inexpensively link amateur radio systems without the use of RF links, leased lines, or satellites. The IRLP uses Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) custom software and hardware. Coupled with the power of the Internet, IRLP will link your repeater site or simplex station to the world in a simple and cost effective way.

IRLP operates a worldwide network of dedicated servers and nodes offering very stable worldwide voice communications between hundreds of towns and cities. All this with unsurpassed uptimes and the full dynamic range of telephone quality audio.

History

The Internet Radio Linking Project was started back in November of 1997 as an attempt to use the internet to link radio systems across Canada. The first full time link that was established ran from Vancouver, BC to Saint John, NB. The link had many problems and was shut down in March of 1998 due to the numerous computer crashes and repeater lockups it was causing, and the lack of user control over the system.

David Cameron, VE7LTD, set out to design a better way to use the same technology to perform the same task, while improving usability, user control, and sound quality. His first breakthrough was to replace the existing operating system, Windows, with a more stable and versatile language. He chose Linux, an open source form of the operating system UNIX designed by Linus Torvalds, because of its superior networking characteristics, its reliability, and its ease of programming. He designed his own interface board to interface the radio to the computer. This allowed a large amount of delay to be removed from the system because two VOX circuits were no longer being used. He also wrote his own custom

control software, and modified an existing voice-over-IP software package to accommodate the project. The final product was a combination of hardware and software that created a nearly seamless radio link between two remote sites on the internet. The product works so well that many people can not believe that they are talking through a link at all!

How Does it Work?

The IRLP uses a Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) streaming software called Speak Freely. Speak Freely is very similar to other VoIP software packages (such as Microsoft NetMeeting and VocalTec iPhone) with one difference... It runs under Linux. Most older IRLP nodes use Linux RedHat 7.3 or RedHat 9 as they are very stable releases and run very smooth on any P1 or better computer. In March 2007 IRLP started shipping an open sourced CentOS version of Linux. This release provides greatly improved operation with more support for audio cards. The concept of IRLP's use of VoIP is as follows:

1. Sample the audio using an analog to digital (A/D) converter. The A/D converter used by IRLP is the input source of a standard PC sound card. This creates a continuous mono 16-bit digital stream of raw audio at 8000Hz (120000 bps).
2. Compress the audio by downsampling the stream and using an 4-bit ADPCM algorithm to reduce the size of the stream by a factor of four (32000 bps)
3. Split the sample into small chunks (or packets).
4. Transmit the packets to the remote host using a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) stream. UDP does NOT confirm the reception of packets, so it uses a "fire and forget" method.
5. Receive the packets on the remote host.
6. Join the split packets back into a 4-bit ADPCM stream.
7. Uncompress the ADPCM stream back into an 16-bit raw stream of audio.
8. Play the raw audio stream through a digital to analog (D/A) converter (the output device of your sound card).

The control software controls the stream using carrier operated squelch (COS) or continuous tone coded sub-audible squelch signals (CTCSS) to start and stop the stream. When COS is present, the computer detects it through the IRLP interface board.

The PTT is controlled by the buffer which joins the split packets back into the audio stream. The IRLP interface board receives a "transmit" signal from the computer while there are packets in the buffer, and a "unkey" command when the buffer is empty.

The user interfaces to the IRLP computer using DTMF signals sent over the radio which are owner programmable and can accomplish almost any function imaginable. A DTMF software program then runs commands on the computer depending on the code entered.

These commands are what start and stop Speak Freely, basically establishing and breaking the link.

And that is, in a nutshell, how IRLP works.

For more information see www.irlp.net. -AR-

LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information

by David Noeth, KD8ACO

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets will be returning on February 18, 2009 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 two months (November and December 2008), 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:

Gene K8ECL, Ben K8IV, Jeff K8JTK, John KA8GZA, Matt KB1LCS, Mark KB8FKM, John KC8FOC, Mark KC8FQV, Joe KC8RAN, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Don KD8ICR, Morgan KD8JNK, Steve N8OHT, Tom N8UAZ, Bill N8UPZ, Jim N8XDO, Bob W2THU, Matt W8EBB, Ray W8SLZ, Stuart W8STU, Gary WA8TJL, and Carmen WB8SDA.

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

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

1/15/09 Ken	KG8DN
1/22/09 Bob	W2THU
1/29/09 David	KD8ACO
2/5/09 Eric	N8AUC
2/12/09 Ken	KG8DN
2/19/09 Bob	W2THU
2/26/09 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. 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.

Net Control Stations: John N8OBJ, Terry K8TJM, and Joe KC8RAN.

Wanted! Net Control Stations

We are back down to only four Net Control Stations for the Thursday evening LEARA Club Net and only three stations for the Saturday evening SSTV net. Now would be a create time to join the rotation!

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 or send me an email (KD8ACO at arrl dot net or KD8ACO at leara dot org). 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

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

Mansfield, OH

Richland County Fairgrounds

750 North Home Road

Div: Great Lakes

Sect: Ohio

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

24-Jan-2009

Sponsor: WRECS

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

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

03-Feb-2009

Sponsor: Pioneer AR Fellowship

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

Contact: Ronald D Lieving

(330)724-5981

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Akron Baptist Temple

2324 Manchester Rd

Pre-Registration Preferred

Akron, OH 44314

07-Feb-2009

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins OK)

Contact: Scott Farnham

(440)256-0320

Email: scottfarnham@roadrunner.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Kirtland Library

9267 Chillicothe Rd Route 306,

1.7 Mi S Of I-90

Kirtland, OH 44094

07-Feb-2009

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

15-Feb-2009

Sponsor: Lorain County ARA

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

Contact: Charles Hall

(216)433-3036

Email: ve@w8hf.com

Location: American Red Cross

2929 W River Rd N

10th
Annual

Tusco A.R.C. Hamfest

Where friends meet and meet new friends.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25, 2009
965 North Wooster Ave. Strasburg, Ohio

DIRECTIONS: Exit 87 off I-77 to SR 250 W (1.9 miles)

Talk/Check in on 146.730-

Admission: \$5.00 Donation at the door

Tables: \$10.00 Plus Admission

Open: 6:00 am for set up, 8:00 am to ??? for public.

Parking: FREE, close parking available in rear.

Dealers Welcome!

For additional information and to reserve tables contact:

Kyle Quillen KD8HDJ

P.O. Box 39 • Berlin, Ohio 44610

Telephone 330-231-6269 • Email hamfest@tuscoarc.org

****PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN EXTENSION CORDS.
120 VOLTS IS AVAILABLE.**



January Trustee Minutes

By Bob Winston, W2THU, Secretary

Trustees present: N8NAP, W2THU, K2RJ, W8AZO, WD8JMM, WB8APD, N8XDO, K8EHP, KD8ACO, WA8TJL, K8JTK, N8AUC, N8OOF. Excused: N8YNR and KC8FOC Guest: KA8BZB

1. The meeting was called to order by WD8JMM at 0928.
2. Corrections to and Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting: W2THU noted that he forgot to list the trustees who were present, but it could be deduced from minute no. 16, which stated that only K2RJ, N8XDO and KC8GHX were absent. The corrected minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Treasurer's Report: WB8APD reported on the amount LEARA has in its bank account.
4. Membership Report: W8AZO reported that 170 members have already renewed for 2009. Approximately 70 members are still due for renewal.
5. Door Prize Assignments: The following Trustees volunteered to purchase door prizes for the regular monthly membership meetings: January is N8AUC, February is W2THU, March is W8AZO, April is K8JTK, May is N8NAP, June is WD8JMM, July is K8EHP, August is WA8TJL, September is N8XDO, October is K2RJ and November is WB8APD. The monthly expenditure of approximately \$20 shall be paid from the club treasury.
6. Programs for 2009: W8TAB reported via email as follows: January (Digital TV), February (Field Trip to Broadcast Museum), March (Skywarn), April (Fabrication of Antennas for Field Day), May (None), June (Field Day), July (Picnic), August (none), September (none), October (Elections- no speaker), and November (Holiday Dinner – no speaker). WD8JMM suggested that we continue to have fox-hunting at the July picnic meeting.
7. It was announced that N8DJG did receive affirmative votes of all 15 Trustees to elect him to the status of Trustee Emeritus. W2THU or N8XDO will order the plaque.
8. N8XDO moved, seconded by N8AUC, that David, KD8ACO be elected Trustee to replace KC8GHX who had tendered his resignation after the most recent election. The motion passed unanimously.
9. The IRLP on 146.88 was made fully operational since the last Trustee's meeting. WB8APD had tweaked the incoming audio level last night to a satisfactory level. N8NAP said that certain set points in the repeater's scheduler should be deleted as they force the controller into a state that shuts down the IRLP.
10. Technical Committee Report:
 - A) The 146.76 carrier hangup problem – K2RJ discovered that the spare remote link receiver at the repeater site was opening the squelch, thus keying up the transmitter. He shut the problem receiver off remotely and that cured the problem.
 - B) Changing the clock from EST to DST – We now have enough people with codes and access to the controllers to accomplish this function in a timely manner.
 - C) 444.70 repeater telephone line – N8NAP said that we don't need 2 telephone lines at 146.76. WB8APD stated again that he knows how to call the 146.88 repeater on the landline but does not know any codes to do anything. N8NAP said he has converted the 444.40 repeater to on

the air programming and that he would send the codes to N8AUC, K2RJ and WD8JMM. At this point WD8JMM said it was time to have a meeting of the radio officers, license trustee and anyone else with information about the club repeaters' codes. The purpose of the meeting is to photocopy each other's documents so that more than one person has access to this important information. Alex said he would schedule the meeting sometime in February. The goal is to create a binder of information.

11. Status of 146.76 repeater site search: W8AZO said that Tri-C presently has no funds to tear down Sunny Acres. He believes that they will have funds to do so in the summer. The packet equipment must also be moved and he expects that K8QOT will take it. The new 146.76 repeater, controller and remote receivers, built by K8SGX, are ready to be installed as soon as the club finds a new site. N8AUC believes he has located a tower in the immediate vicinity that will accept the repeater. The club still needs a duplexer and hardline. WA8TJL said he had access to about 250 feet of heliax. N8NAP said we also need a side arm for mounting the antenna. N8AUC will continue his efforts with the subject tower. W2THU did not yet send a letter to Tri-C, but was urged to do so by WD8JMM so that we do not have all our eggs in one basket.

12. Report on LEARA license classes: WA8TJL reported that the entry level classes will start this coming Thursday at the Parma-Ridge branch of the Cuyahoga County library. Gary sent information to the Sun Newspapers on 5 December 2008, but they have not yet published it. He did receive a couple of inquiries, though. The classes start at 1900 and run for 2 hours. There will be 2 lessons per evening for 5 weeks.

13. Comprehensive Plan for LEARA's Goals: K2RJ said that due to other LEARA duties, such as editing the club newsletter and fixing the 146.76 repeater problem, he has not had a chance to give any thought to this project. It was tabled until the next meeting.

14. Field Day plans: WD8JMM appointed N8AUC chair of the Field Day committee and other members are WD8JMM, WA8TJL and KC8FOC. N8AUC moved, seconded by K8EHP that the club spend up to \$400.00 to fund this event. The motion passed without opposition. It was agreed that we would use the same site as last year (Cleveland Lakefront State Park).

15. LEARA Involvement in ARES: N8AUC reported that he had attended the latest Cuyahoga County ARES meeting, hosted by the District EC, KB1LCS. Matt told Eric that he had chosen LEARA's repeaters for secondary use in an emergency. Eric urged Matt to consider using club repeaters, rather than private repeaters, as primary.

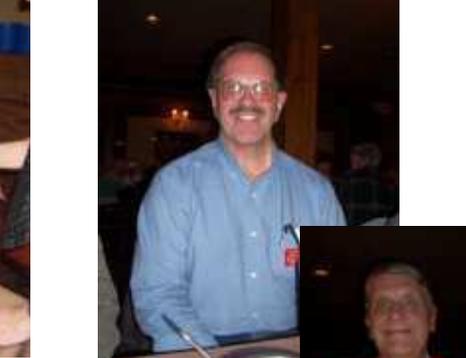
16. N8NAP stated his concern that at a previous trustee's meeting, that a non-trustee club member was quite outspoken, interjecting comments throughout the course of the meeting. WD8JMM stated that he would discuss this issue with the responsible party.

17. New Business: KA8BZB reported that the Winter Rally is scheduled for 7 February 2009. K2RJ said he would put a notice in the Newsletter. Dave also reported that the Triathlon is scheduled for 2 August 2009.

18. Motion to Adjourn: W2THU moved, seconded by K2RJ, to adjourn at 1120. The motion passed without opposition. (Note: Due to a snowstorm, the library was to close at noon.)

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M. Winston W2THU
Secretary

-AR-



LEARA Party Pix
You miss one meeting...
You miss a Lot!

Breaking News

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin Announces Resignation (Jan 15, 2009)

-- The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think-tank, announced today that FCC Chairman Kevin Martin will join their group as a Senior Fellow in the Communications and Society Program on Tuesday, January 20, immediately upon his departure from the FCC. According to the Institute, Martin will be the fourth consecutive FCC Chairman to make the move to the group: Democrats Reed Hundt (1993-97) and William Kennard (1997-2001), as well as Republican Michael Powell (2001-05) have accepted fellowships with the Institute upon leaving the FCC. Julius Genachowski is expected to succeed Martin at the FCC. *Via ARRL -AR-*

Funding cut ends international Emcomm event (Jan 16, 2009)

— Regrettably the RAC-ARRL Myrtle Beach Special Event, planned for mid-March 2009 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has been cancelled. Preparations for the event, which was to be a second demonstration of cooperation between Canada (RAC) and the United States of America (ARRL) in emergency communications, had to be halted when Canadian government funding was suddenly and severely reduced due to the current world economic situation. Sincere thanks are extended to all who participated in planning for the event, including Canadian Consulate officials in Atlanta, GA and Raleigh, SC. *Via QRZ -AR-*

ARRL 500 kHz Experiment Shows Increased Activity (Jan 13, 2009)

— In the 500 kHz Experiment quarterly report for the period ending November 2008, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that 21 participating stations are currently active since the experiment began in late 2006. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September of that year. The FCC has issued six experimental licenses for 500 kHz: WD2XSH, WE2XGR, WD2XFF, WE2XPQ, WE2XTT and WE2XVY.

In the fall of 2008, hams in the WD2XSH experimental group made 18 contacts, bringing the total number of contacts to 296. One of the highlights of the quarter occurred on November 30. Bob Raide, running WE2XGR/6 in New York, was transmitting on lower-sideband on 510 kHz, running about 50 W ERP. Raab said he usually runs 200 W ERP, but due to ice build-up on his antenna, switched to a lower power. In Northern Ireland, Finbar O'Connor, GI4DPE, responded in CW. Raab said this is the first transatlantic reception of SSB voice on 500 kHz. Raab said he has inquired with the FCC regarding permission to communicate with 500 kHz experimental stations, such as the ones in Canada; that country received permission to operate in the 500 kHz band in November 2008. "While [getting permission] should be simple as it does not involve any new stations or frequencies," Raab said, "it appears [the FCC] has no procedure for dealing with such a request other than filing a formal request for modification." *Via ARRL -AR-*

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

—Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1966—

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- <i>IRLP</i> | • 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
- To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: spirit76-request@leara.org
Put *subscribe* in the subject area and your *name* and *callsign* in the body.