



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: Part 2—The The (new) Plan and How Digital Works At February 24, 2009 Dimitri's Dinner Meeting

Last month we had an outstanding program on digital TV and some of its differences compared to analog. We also learned about converter boxes and "smart" antenna technology now on the market. But time ran out and Dimitri's wanted to send their staff home early due to a snowstorm beginning to wind-up, so we all decided to continue the presentation at this month's meeting. So Dave Kennett, W8KFJ, Bob Leskovec, K8DTS, Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, and Raye

Bayun, N8NAP will continue where they left off with additional hardware and presentation material. Since our last meeting, Congress has voted to move the final transition date to June 12th from February 17th and we'll find out what that means for us in the Cleveland market. Bob Leskovec will show the Magnavox TB100MG9 "converter box" sold by Wal-Mart for \$49.95 (before the \$40 coupon discount), and demonstrate the "cliff effect" and other phenomena, like the problems that one can have with rabbit ears, even 2 miles from the transmitters just south of our Dimitri's meeting location. He will also discuss his extensive Yagi-based home installation, which includes the Magnavox Converters and two Magnavox ZV450MW8A SDTV units that can record directly to either VHS or DVD (available from Wal-Mart at \$179.95). This is the least-expensive of very few recorders on the market that include ATSC tuners.

Raye Bayun will resume the demonstration and discussion of the DX CTA5000 "Smart Antenna" system, along with an RCA set-top "converter box", and the RCA indoor panel ANT2000 which did not arrive in time for the January meeting.

Dave Kennet and Jeff Covelli will have more follow-up information as well.

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).

DUES NOTICE!

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

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

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Don Raith	N8DJG
Fred Collins	W8ADW(SK)
Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)

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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 Alex Manuk, WD8JMM



Ahh, the signs of spring. No, I don't mean robins singing, or lawnmowers, or any of that. As I write this, I'm counting down the hours to the day that the Cleveland Indians spring training gets underway in Arizona. Pitchers and catchers report later this week, and the first full squad workout is less than a week away. Hard to believe we were just watching the Super Bowl, isn't it?

For those of you who made it to our January meeting, I'm sure you'll agree that it was informative, entertaining, and well worth braving the snow on the way home. I'd like to personally thank Dave Kennett and Raye Bayun for their presentations. There was a LOT of information available, so much so, that we've invited them back, along with Bob Leskovec, for round TWO of "Digital Television 101". Before January's meeting, I'd have sworn I knew all I needed to about DTV, but I came away from the meeting with lots of new knowledge, and some questions I'm looking forward to asking in February.

Also coming up in February is our 'Field Trip' to the Broadcast Museum in downtown Cleveland. During the meeting it was decided that we'd plan it for a Saturday rather than interrupting our usual meeting schedule, so hopefully we'll see some new faces at the museum. Check out the particulars elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have to confess, I haven't been listening to our repeaters much lately. I've changed jobs and my commute times are different, so the drive-time crowd I used to catch aren't around when I am. When I do turn on the radio, it seems rather quieter than I remember. Is it just because everyone's gotten busy with life and all it's distractions? I know the demands on my time have increased quite a bit, but I'm trying to make more time for radio. I hope I'll catch some of you on the air!

If you have any questions or suggestions for the betterment of LEARA, please feel free to contact myself or any of the trustees via email or telephone.

Til next time

73 -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**.

2nd LEARA Program of the Month: Baseball Heritage and Radio Broadcasting Museum “Ham Radio Tour” - Feb. 28

by Bob Leskovec, K8DTS

On Saturday Feb 28th from 11:00 to 2:00pm, there will be special opening of the Baseball Heritage and Radio Broadcasting Museum arranged by the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association, (LEARA) and open to all ham clubs, hams, and their guests. Also on hand may be a few local newspaper & broadcast writers and on-air personalities, as well as local radio historian and curator Jim Davison. (The museum is usually open between the hours of 11:00 am -1:30 pm on weekdays only.)



The Baseball Heritage Museum is located midway along the west hallway in the Colonial Marketplace at 530 Euclid Ave should you arrive by public transportation via the Euclid Corridor. If driving, avoid Euclid! --and enter from Prospect, where there are more options for parking



including a large surface lot across the street. The Radio Broadcast exhibits are in the basement, and the Baseball Heritage Museum is split-level, so unfortunately not wheel-chair accessible.

These museums are still relatively new, and this is your chance to see them while admission is still free. Of course, donations are always welcome. There are no refreshments for sale inside the museum, but refreshments should be available elsewhere in the nearby area along with the usual downtown parking for a nominal fee, and limited on-street parking if you can find any. As of this writing, no major events are scheduled for the area.



The Radio Museum displays date back to the 1940's and include a small "living room" setup, an early Baseball Broadcast booth, a vintage newsroom, a 1950's studio, a 1970's studio, a transmitter room, and display cases filled with early radio memorabilia. The walls are filled with drawings, posters, banners, photos of old radio personalities, and t-shirts from the past. -AR-



LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information

by David Noeth, KD8ACO

Reminder: The Skywarn Wednesday Evening Practice Net returns on February 18, 2009 on the 146.76 repeater at 8:00 PM local time.

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:

Ron K2RJ, Gene K8ECL, Jeff K8JTK, Fritz K8WLF, John KA8GZA, Lilly KB8MHZ, Leone KB8VBR, Jeff KC8FNK, John KC8FOC, Mark KC8FQV, Joe KC8RAN, Jean KC8TJH, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Don KD8ICR, Ken KG8DN, Don KJ5KB, Raye N8NAP, Steve N8OHT, Tom N8UAZ, Jim N8XDO, Stuart W8STU, Gary WA8TJL, and Wayne WS8RM.

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

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

2/12/09	Ken	KG8DN
2/19/09	Bob	W2THU
2/26/09	Eric	N8AUC
3/5/09	David	KD8ACO

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! -AR-

Gilmour Academy ND8GA "On The Air"

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

Thanks to a bunch of LEARA members led by Gilmour teacher Ken Kane, KG8DN and Bob Leskovec, K8DTS, the Gilmour Academy club station ND8GA has a new antenna system and is active on the air. They have been working the *School Club Roundup* and, as of February 10th have logged 7.29 operating hours with 38 contacts, giving them a score of 2,014.

They have contacted 14 states, 2 Canadian provinces and 8 countries (Aruba, Bahamas, Canary Islands, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Northern Ireland and Scotland). They have been able to contact 6 other school clubs scattered across the country. -AR-



Hamfest Listing

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

19 Apr 2009 55th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, & Computer Show
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2009.html>
 Talk-In: 147.27
 Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS
 239 Bermont Avenue
 Munroe Falls, OH 44262
 Phone: 330-688-2013
 Email: w8tts@w8tts.com
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 Emidio & Sons Party Center
 48 East Bath Road

15-17 May 2009 ARRL National Convention (**Dayton Hamvention**)
 Dayton ARA
<http://www.hamvention.org>
 Talk-In: 146.940
 Contact: Mike Kalter, W8CI
 Phone: 937-776-7898
 Email: w8ci@arrl.net

30 May 2009 Atlantic Division Convention (**75th Rochester Hamfest**)
 Rochester Amateur Radio Assn
 —New Management & Venue!—
<http://www.rochesterham.org>
 Talk-In: 146.88 (PL 110.9)
 Contact: Len Crellin, KC2PCD
 c/o RARA
 PO Box 93333
 Rochester, NY 14692
 Phone: 585-671-2424
 Email: kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com
 Rochester, NY
 Barnard Carnival Grounds
 380 Maiden Lane

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

03-Mar-2009

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: BRUCE M FERRY
 (330)929-2766
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: STOW-MUNROE FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY
 3512 DARROW RD
[HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE](http://www.ak8b.us/ve)
 STOW, OH 44224

Email: GDEWEY@EN.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: TOWN HALL
 6652 BRECKSVILLE RD
 STATE ROUTE 21
 INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

15-Mar-2009

08-Mar-2009

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: GARY S DEWEY
 (216)642-8705

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES HALL
 (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
[WWW.W8HF.COM](http://www.w8hf.com)
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.




PCARS - KD8CKP

Fourth Annual

"Freeze Your Acorns Off"

(FYAO) QRP mini-field day

Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
 at the Roy Smith Shelter House


When: Saturday - Feb. 21, 2009
 Set up: 9am

Operating Time: 10am - 6pm EST



We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echolink node) and anything else we can get working)
 Club Call Sign **KD8CKP**

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you send your QSL card and a large SASE to the club call trustee:
 AJ Atkins KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202



So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org







LEARA
Meeting Pix
*You miss
one meet-
ing...
You miss a
Lot!*



Oklahoma QTH of Tim Duffy, K3LR, Extensively Damaged by Tornado

(from the ARRL website)

A rare winter tornado struck Oklahoma around dinner time on Tuesday, February 10. According to various news reports, Oklahoma officials credited Amateur Radio operators with spotting the tornadoes and relaying the information to the National Weather Service.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator Charles Goodson, KC5UEG, told the ARRL that the Southern Oklahoma ARES® group (SOARES) and other Amateur Radio operators from the Ardmore area served as SKYWARN® storm spotters. "After the tornado passed Lone Grove and Ardmore, several hams went back to the Lone Grove area," Goodson said. "One ham went to the Red Cross building and set up a communication command post from the Red Cross radio room. It was amateur operators who had the first visual contact with the tornadoes. They started reporting the tornado to Neil Mayo, KC5AMX, the Emergency Coordinator for Murray County and our Net control for severe weather events; he in turn reports to the National Weather Service in Norman via Amateur Radio."

The town of Lone Grove, population 4600 and located about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City, bore the brunt of the storm, with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) reporting eight deaths and more than 100 homes destroyed. Two other tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City metro area and the north-central Oklahoma region late Tuesday. No serious injuries were reported in the Oklahoma City storm, but at least six homes were destroyed and businesses were damaged there, ODEM officials said.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Public Information Coordinator

Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, told the ARRL that his Ardmore home survived the tornado, but they are without power, water and other services. Other homes in his neighborhood were completely destroyed. Oklahoma Gas and Electric reported about 6000 customers are currently without power, with 3461 in Lone Grove.

Well-known contester Tim Duffy, K3LR, told the ARRL that he lost 40 percent of his home as a tornado blew through his town of Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City: "We lost all the doors and windows in the house, all the power, just everything. The damage is amazing. The cell phone system is still 'on tilt' with emergency services taking most of the channels. We're making big progress on getting things sorted out here. We will rebuild and make it better than it was before. With the house in complete disrepair, we'll be staying in a hotel for a while."

Duffy said that National Weather Service officials told him that the wind speed at his home was more than 150 MPH. While the family dog, a golden retriever, made it through the storm okay, Duffy said their pet cat is still missing. According to emergency management officials in Edmond, six homes were destroyed in the storm.

This storm took many by surprise because even in tornado-prone Oklahoma, February twisters are rare. According to the NWS, since 1950, only 44 twisters have touched down in the state during the month of February. The Lone Grove tornado was the third to cause multiple fatalities in the state since March 2007, when a Panhandle couple became the state's first tornado deaths in almost six years.

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