



The Spirit of '76 and '88



FEBRUARY

Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

2010

***The Entire History of Morse Code* — Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI Tuesday, February 23, 2010 — Dimitri's Dinner Meeting**

Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI, will speak on *The Entire History of Morse Code (That I Could Steal Off the Internet)* at the next club meeting. The presentation covers the early history of Morse Code and the people behind it, shows off vintage CW equipment in actual operation, and demonstrates the latest software for CW contesting. Bill will also lay out several good reasons why 21st century hams should consider getting involved in a 19th century communications mode.

Bill is a Net Control station for the Ohio Section CW traffic net, an instructor on the Maryland Slow Net, and Net Control station for the Tri-County Traffic Training Net on the 147.015 repeater. On Field Day, you'll find him holding down the CW station for Portage County ARS. Country music fans may remember him as an air personality for WGAR for almost 20 years.

(We are told that WB9LBI does not actually speak during this presentation, but now delivers his entire presentation in Morse Code at about 20 words per minute instead of 120 or so Powerpoint slides. It should all be over in about an hour, so just try to smile and nod politely. Rick N8BY over at LCARA in Painesville said that K18U got fed up and started to

heckle him, WB9LBI got sore and bashed Dennis in the head with a Vibroplex. If you are in need of mid-winter excitement, this might be just the place to be!)

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-

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!

OFFICERS

Alex Manuk President	WD8JMM 216-459-8523
David Noeth Vice President	KD8ACO 216-932-8005
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

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Jeff Kopcak	K8JTK k8jtk@arll.net
Raye Bayun	N8NAP
Gary Zimmet	WA8TJL 440-446-0402
Marv Grossman	W8AZO 440-248-0031
David Noeth	KD8ACO 216-932-8005
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

John Radney "Sunshine"	KC8FOC 216-469-4361
Ron Jakubowski Radio Officer	K2RJ 440-498-1512
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 (except on months with 5 Sundays and Tuesdays, when the 3rd Sunday will suffice.)

Editor: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

E-mail: editor@leara.org

The Prez Says

by Alex Manuk, WD8JMM



Those of you who weren't able to be with us for our January meeting missed a very special presentation. Dave, W8KFJ, was kind enough to bring his Software Defined Radio (SDR) and set it up at Dimitri's. Dave explained how the SDR is changing the way radio is done, and by the end of the meeting I think there were a great number of enlightened amateurs in the room. Dave's presentation was informative and entertaining, and I was sorry to see the evening end. It was also one of our most well-attended meet-

ings in a very long time, indicating that SDR is probably something you'll be hearing a lot more about as time goes on.

So, after delving into the future of radio, February's meeting will be a visit to one of the earliest forms of radio communication. Bill, WB9LBI will be giving a presentation on CW. Nowadays, with the removal of the CW proficiency requirement from amateur licensing, there's no need to suffer through learning the dots and dashes just to upgrade your license class. But – CW is still alive and well on our bands, and for those of us who use and enjoy it, the mode is very special, and very much like a 'secret language'. As a matter of fact, when I'm working CW, with headphones, I can be sitting in the family room and my XYL has no idea I'm even on the radio – it's totally silent!

So, please join us February 23rd for WB9LBI's presentation. Who knows, you may come away with a new appreciation for a very old mode!

As I'm writing this, I'm warming up from having run the snowblower to clear the last of this week's snowfall from my driveway. I'm pretty sick of winter, but it's been a good excuse to stay in the house and play on HF. 160 meters has been busy all winter, 80 and 40 are always good for a few contacts, and I heard a band opening on 10 meters last week that sounded very interesting. Old Sol hasn't heated up the sunspot machine completely yet, but conditions are improving and I expect that this summer should make for some upper band activity the likes of which we haven't seen in several years. Winter's quiet will last a few more weeks, so if you get a chance, dust off the HF rig and make a few contacts – you'll be glad you did.

Well, that's all I've got for now. I hope everyone stays warm and healthy, and I'll look for you at February's meeting! -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**.

OHIO PRB-1 - OHIO HOUSE BILL 212*by Nick Pittner, K8NAP*

On Tuesday, January 19th, The Public Service and Homeland Security Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives held a second reading, and listened to proponent testimony for Ohio House Bill 212, better know as Ohio PRB-1.

Section Government Liaison Nick Pitner, K8NAP, has provided us with the follow up reports, published by both the Gongwer and Hannah Reports, which are reports that follow House Bill legislation at the State Capital. Here are the reports of testimony summary:

The Gongwer Report:

HB 212 AMATEUR RADIO ZONING (Stebelton, Okey)

To codify federal restrictions on local zoning of amateur station antenna structures thereby preserving amateur radio service communications as a Homeland Security resource and to place the burden of proof for compliance on the zoning authority.

Amateur radio operators and organizers lined up to provide proponent testimony to preserve their radio service communications that would prohibit local zoning restrictions on the placement antenna structures.

Frank Piper, section manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), noted that 30,000 operators not only have devoted time and costs of equipment to enjoy their hobby but are also ready to serve the public in the event of failure of the existing communications structure. He added that in the event of such a communications breakdown, radio amateurs can and will take up those duties to ensure emergency messages can be transmitted out of and into the affected disaster area as a wide variety of message handling modes ensures the ability send and receive

communications regardless of the operating conditions. Don Kovalchik, an electrical engineer and licensed amateur operator for nearly 40 years, explained that in order to communicate over a variety of distances, different frequencies and antennas are needed to cover all conditions. He said the laws of physics require effective antennas to engage in amateur radio communication and define many aspects of what those antennas must look like. As a proven method of communication during times of emergency, Mr. Kovalchik said it was his hope that the legislature would recognize, as did the Federal Communications Commission and 27 other states, that amateur radio communications should be protected in the public interest. Richard Swain, president of the Galion City Council and holder of a ham radio licenses since 1961, said that despite the FCC requiring villages, cities, townships, counties and states to make accommodations for antenna installation, some localities continue to raise barriers. He said whether this is done out of ignorance or on purpose, most hams cannot afford to take expensive legal action to secure their rights.

Mr. Swain said there are many examples of volunteer service where amateur radio operators have demonstrated their value to communities in the United States and around the world but without the proper equipment and the right to properly erect the necessary antennas, such support may not be available in the future.

Attorney Nick Pittner, who serves as an unpaid volunteer as state government liaison for the ARRL, asked that Ohio join with other states in the recognition of the valuable service provided by Ohio's radio amateurs and the preservation of that service as a resource for the benefit of all Ohioans in times of emergency.

Now, the Hannah Report:

HB212 AMATEUR STATION ANTENNA STRUCTURES (Stebelton G) To codify federal restrictions on local zoning of amateur station antenna structures thereby preserving amateur radio service commutations as a Homeland Security resource.

Licensed amateur (ham) radio operators Frank Piper, Ohio section manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL); Steven Katz, of Granville; Richard Swain, president of the Galion City Council; Don Kovalchik, an electrical engineer; Robert Lewis, of Plain City; Nick Pittner, state government liaison for ARRL; Jeff Garvas, trustee with the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association (LEARA) and past communications director with the Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corp (NEOMRC); and Bryan Torok, of Cleveland testified in support of HB212.

Katz said that for almost 100 years the federal government has assigned a large amount of radio spectrum to hams for public service. He attributed the effectiveness of the ham network to not depending on fragile infrastruc-

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Wanted: Operating and Shack Pictures

Your Editor has received a suggestion that instead of just pictures of people taken at meetings, we solicit pictures of member's shack, mobile station or operating events. I'd like to see a varying array of pictures in the *Spirit*, so let's see if we can get an issue or two of different pictures. Please send them by email to editor@leara.org and I'll try to use all I can get! Please help me by reducing the size of the picture before you send it, if you can. If you don't have a clue how to do it, don't worry, just send it and your ol' editor can take care of it...!

LEARA “On The Air”**Club Net Information***by David Noeth, KD8ACO*

Reminder: The Skywarn Wednesday Evening Practice Net returns on February 17, 2010 on the 146.88 repeater at 8:00 PM local time. Member participation in each and every net is greatly appreciated.

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets will be returning on February 17, 2010 on the 146.880 (- 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! Skywarn nets may be activated 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 146.880 (- 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 Night Club Net had a total of sixty-one (61) check-ins from thirty-eight (38) different stations. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Bill AC8CO, David AD8WS, Randy K8CLE, Bill K8DBN, Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, Fritz K8WLF, John KA8GZA, Bill KA8VIT, Ross KB8JTZ, Greg KB8PEC, Leone KB8VBR, Carl KB8VXE, John KC8FOC, Kevin KC8KPJ, Jeanne KC8TJH, Jessica KD8ACJ, David KD8ACO, Donny KD8GYA, Keith KD8KBL, Laura KD8MBJ, Ricky KD8MGF, Ken KG8DN, Eric N8AUC, Don N8DJG, Bill N8JTK, Raye N8NAP, John N8OBJ, Tom N8UAZ, Bill N8UPZ, Jeff N8YNR, Bob W2THU, Ralph W8BHI, Dave W8KFJ, Ray W8SLZ, Stu W8STU, John WA8LGM, and Gary WA8TJL.

Net Control Stations: Ken KG8DN, Bill AC8CO, Bob W2THU, and Eric N8AUC.

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

2/18/10	Bill	AC8CO
2/25/10	Bob	W2THU

3/4/10	David	KD8ACO
3/11/10	Eric	N8AUC
3/18/10	Ken	KG8DN
3/25/10	Bill	AC8CO

The feedback received from members regarding the Thursday Club Net promotion has been very encouraging. This promotion encourages participation in both the weekly club net, as well as, the monthly LEARA membership meetings. Specifically, any individual who checks into the Thursday Club Net during a given month will be given one extra door prize ticket at the following month’s LEARA club meeting. This extra door prize ticket will be given in addition to any other door prize tickets the individual has already been given. Participation in only one net during the preceding month is required. Participation in the monthly meeting is obviously required.

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.

Wanted! Net Control Stations

We now have five Net Control Stations for the Thursday evening LEARA Club Net. There’s always room for more stations who would like to give it a try.

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. 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 at kd8aco@leara.org. Hope to talk with you “on the air” soon!

-AR-

Hamfest Listing

21 Mar 2010 Hamfest and Computer Fair

Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA)

<http://tmrahamradio.org>

Talk-In: 147.27+

Contact:

Brian J. Harrington, WD8MXR

4463 Holly Hill Drive

Toledo, OH 43614

Phone: 419-385-5624

Email:

brian.harrington@utoledo.edu

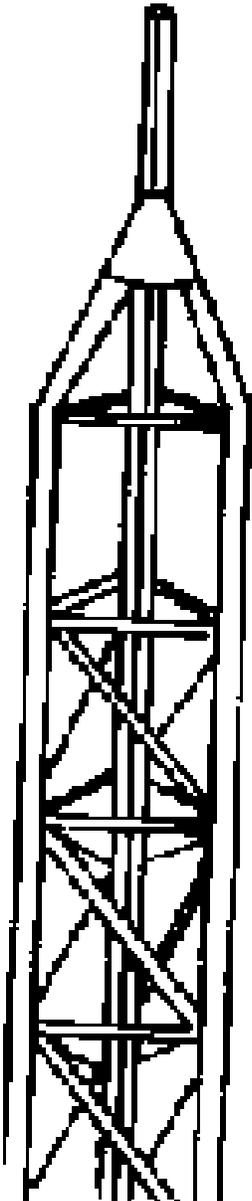
Perrysburg, OH

Owens Community College

30335 Oregon Road

Div: Great Lakes

Sect: Ohio



Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

17-Feb-2010

Sponsor: 20 OVER 9 ARC

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ALLAN AVNET

(330)549-3051 (330)549-3051

Email: AB8AA@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: EMA BUILDING

700 INDUSTRIAL RD

YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44509

21-Feb-2010

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY

ARA RED CROSS

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

Contact: CHARLES HALL

(216)453-3700 (216)453-3700

Email: VE@W8HF.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN RED

CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME

PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

02-Mar-2010

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

06-Mar-2010

Sponsor: SILVERCREEK ARA

Time: 9:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: BARRY J YOUMANS

(330)925-1706

Email: KI8B@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: RITTMAN PUBLIC

LIBRARY

49 W OHIO AVE

WWW.W8WKY.ORG

RITTMAN, OH 44270

14-Mar-2010

Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS

Time: 9:00 AM (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

18-Mar-2010

Sponsor: MAHONING VALLEY

ARA

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

Contact: JAMES T VIELE

(330)534-1394

Email: W8JV@YAHOO.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: YOUNGSTOWN STATE

UNIVERSITY

WOOD ST - FACILITIES BUILD-

ING

FOR DIRECTIONS CLICK ON:

WWW.MVARA.ORG

YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44501

21-Mar-2010

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA
RED CROSS

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

Contact: CHARLES HALL

(216)453-3700

Email: VE@W8HF.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS

2929 W RIVER RD N

WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)

ELYRIA, OH 44035

28-Mar-2010

Sponsor: WARREN ARA

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

Contact: WILLIAM H SHOWERS

(330)872-1929

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: NEWTON FALLS COM-

MUNITY CENTER

52 E QUARRY ST

REGISTRATION AT 6:30 PM!

MEETING OF THE LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(January 9, 2010 at the Parma-Snow Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library in Parma, Ohio)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Trustees Present: W2THU, W8AZO, WA8TJL, KD8ACO, N8AUC, N8NAP, WD8JMM, K8JTK, K8EHP, N8XDO, WB8APD, N8OOF and N8YNR.

Trustees Excused: K2RJ

Guest Present: KC8UIX

1. Call to Order – WD8JMM called the meeting to order at 0906
2. Corrections to and Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting - After minute number 10 was corrected W8AZO moved and K8EHP seconded a motion to approve the minutes which passed unanimously.
3. Door Prize Assignments – A sign up sheet was passed around and the assignments are as follows:
Jan=W2THU, Feb=KD8ACO; Mar=W8AZO;
Apr=N8AUC, May=K8JTK; Jun=WD8JMM;
Jul=K8EHP; Aug=N8OOF; Sep=WA8TJL;
Oct=N8XDO; Nov=WB8APD.
4. Treasurer's Report - WB8APD reported a substantial bank balance and that all bills are paid.
5. Membership Report - W8AZO reported that we have 221 members but 73 still need to renew.
6. Budget for active committees and who's in charge – N8NAP asked that the club be able to identify the various committees that are appointed from time to time and it was suggested that Jeff, K8JTK, as webmaster, post this information on the club website. Further, W2THU pointed out that committee assignments remain on the agenda until the work is completed.
7. Programs for 2010 – Since W8TAB is the program chair, but no longer on the Board, WD8JMM stated that Tom needs to send his agenda items to the Board shortly before each Board meeting. The programs scheduled so far are as follows: Jan=Software Defined Radio by W8KFJ, Feb=CW by WB9LBI, Mar=Skywarn. K8JTK will put this information on the club website.
8. Technical Committee Report – All the repeaters that are on the air are working OK. WB8APD has the 444.40 MHz repeater in his car and he will hand it off to N8YNR for installation at his QTH. Jeff can't commit as to when it will be installed due to winter weather, but he will be assisted by N8OOF.
9. Status of 146.76 repeater - N8AUC reported that the 146.76 repeater probably won't be installed on its new tower until the spring. The site survey is still with K8QOT and he will give it to K2RJ. N8NAP questions if we have a firm price for the steeplejack.
10. Amateur Radio Classes – WA8TJL reported that he received one telephone inquiry so far and he has put out flyers at some county libraries and at Gilmour Academy. N8XDO said that LEARA member AC8CO is a professor at CWRU and that Bill has some potential students from that school.
11. Ham Radio Exhibit for Library Display Cases, etc – N8OOF reported that he has not done anything yet.
12. Demonstration of Electronic Balloting – Kelly, the LEARA first lady, KC8UIX put on a very interesting demonstration of an application (votingplace.net) that the club can use for on-line voting in the next election. The cost is nominal, especially when accounting for the savings in postage by not mailing the ballots.
13. Sale of RLC-3 and other items – WB8APD reported that he will sell this item on Ebay and N8AUC said that he will transfer the RLC-3 to Dave. The reserve for the Ebay auction will probably be around \$1300.00. The proceeds of the sale will be used to buy a new controller for the 146.76 repeater so LEARA can return the borrowed controller to LCARA.
14. Field Day – The consensus of the Board is that LEARA will continue to participate in Field Day. N8AUC will chair the FD committee consisting of Eric and WA8TJL and KD8ACO. N8AUC moved that LEARA allocate \$400.00 for this event. N8OOF seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
15. UPS for 146.88 and interference to this repeater – WB8APD or WD8JMM will install a UPS at the 146.88 site after the battery is replaced. N8NAP reported that the PCARS repeater in Kent, on 146.895 MHz sometimes interferes with LEARA's 146.88 repeater. Ray believes that their repeater is actually transmitting 2.2KHz below its assigned frequency. N8AUC said he would contact PCARS about this but it is ultimately an issue for the Ohio Repeater Council,
16. Return of N8NAP's stuff from old 146.76 site – Ray is concerned about the whereabouts of some of his

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(Continued from page 6)

equipment. WD8JMM said that all of the stuff removed from the 146.76 site is in a garage at K8QOT and Ray can check it out or talk to K8SGX.

17. New Business – N8OOF reported that he has been Elmering a couple of friends who will probably be licensed in time for the January meeting. Will they be eligible for one year free membership to LEARA? N8OOF moved and N8YNR seconded that these two candidates receive a free one year membership to our club. The rationale is that LEARA already has a policy that new hams who are Elmered through LEARA classes are allowed to receive this benefit, so if a LEARA member does it on his own the result is the same. The motion passed 12 to 0 with 1 abstention.

WB8APD queried if LEARA needs to file an IRS form to maintain our 501(c)(3) status. He and W2THU will investigate.

18. Motion to Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 1128.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M. Winston W2THU
Recording Secretary

Ohio PRB-1

(Continued from page 3)

ture and to volunteers who train for emergencies. Piper described the volunteer work of ARRL and the communications services provided by Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers during a February 2007 severe snowstorm and a August 2008 flood in western and northwestern Ohio, respectively. He also described the National Traffic System (NTS) that maintains an amateur radio communications network in the event of a major communications breakdown.

Lewis described his ham experience relaying vital medical information between hams in New Orleans and New Jersey during the initial parts of the Hurricane Katrina emergency until their communications infrastructure could be restored.

Katz and Kovalchik said it is essential that amateur stations have the ability to erect and maintain efficient, high performance antenna systems to relay information to emergency service agencies from ham operators at the emergency site.

Kovalchik tried to explain the difference between longer wavelength, long range radio waves that bounce off the ionosphere, and shorter wavelength, higher frequency broadcasts used for "line of sight" communications. He said, "Efficient [long range] antenna sizes are generally about half a wavelength long, so antennas for these fre-



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!

quencies range from five meters to 80 meters in length (16 feet to 250 feet)." Short range antennas must still be placed high above the ground (35 to 75 feet or more) to extend their line of sight.

Lewis described his ham radio station which includes a 60-foot-high main antenna, as well as a shorter antenna attached to his chimney and a long ground antenna. Pitner said federal law mandates that local authorities provide accommodation for antennas for amateur radio use by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). However, he added that the ability of radio amateurs to carry out their mission has been compromised in many states by those charged with local land-use decisions, and challenging those decisions is beyond the means of most ham operators.

Pitner asked the committee to join 27 other states in importing the provisions of the federal regulations, known as PRB-1, into state law.

Garvas and Torok asked that HB212 also include language that exempts amateur radio operators from covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) by residential developers that make it impossible to build structurally sound and safe ham radio towers on their property. Garvas noted that FCC rules already prohibit a CC&R or a homeowners' association from prohibiting the use of an antenna to receive broadcast television or a satellite dish.

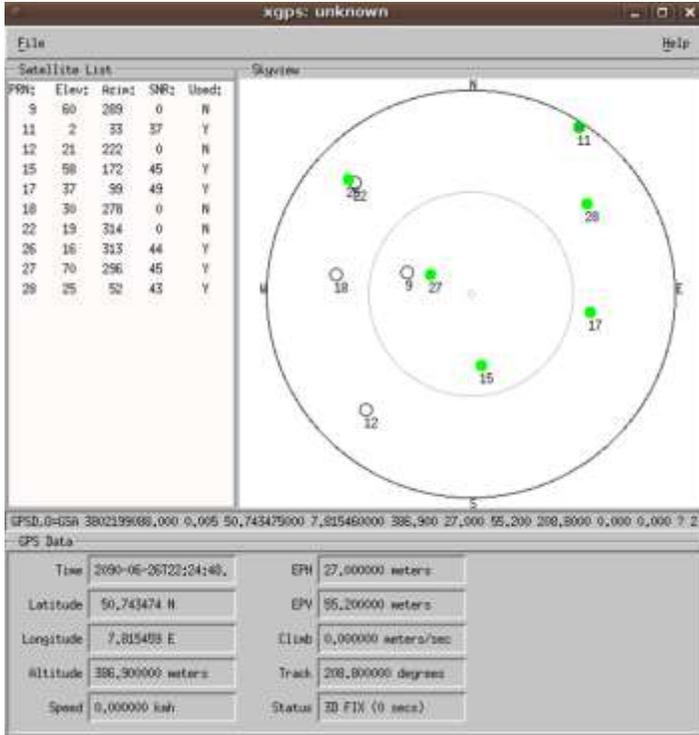
I would like to take this time to Thank each one of our speakers, along with Terri Kovalchick N8TLK, who kept us all well organized for the day. It was great experience, and we were well received by the PS&HS Committee. The next step for this Bill is to have a third reading, and hear any opponent testimony, after which we're hoping that this will be voted out of committee, and move onto the House Floor.

The Senate version of this Bill, SB 218, will be starting it's first reading on February 2nd, with sponsor testimony. More will follow on these bills as events happen.- AR-

Garmin GPS: Year 2010 bug - Possible Pitfall for APRS Ops

by DF1PAW via QRZ.com

This might be interesting to all GPS users - especially APRS operators. There seem to be a year 2010 bug with some Garmin devices.



When switching on date and time are calculated wrong. But making it even worse almanac data is also lost. So it needs to search for all satellites whenever it is turned on (cold boot). Indeed the whole celestial mechanics are wrong: trying to display sunset results in a hung up Geko 201 - I needed to remove the batteries to switch it off.

But what's worst for APRS operators: the wrong date/time is send via the serial NMEA output. So if you are using a Garmin GPS for APRS operation please check if you are transmitting the correct date and time.

On the Garmin web-page there's nothing about this - no FAQ entry, no Firmware update. Several ops were able to reproduce this problem. But Garmin's support admits this error may only affect few devices. Therefore there's no bug-fix available. -AR-

DO YOU HAVE YOUR LEARA BADGE?

If you never received your badge, or if you wish to change your badge due to a change in call letters, or if you need to replace a lost badge then please notify Bob W2THU via email: w2thu@arrl.net. First time badges are free. Lost and upgraded badges cost \$5.00

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

- 40 Years of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969 -

VOICE REPEATERS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 146.76/R- | • Newbury (<i>Temporary QTH</i>) (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) |
| 146.88/R- IRLP | • Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) IRLP Node 4282 |
| 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) |

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.

INTERNET:

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