



The Spirit of '76 and '88



MAY

Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

2010

ARRL Report and Forum: Frank Piper, KI8GW, Section Manager — Tuesday, May 25, Dimitri's Dinner Meeting

At this month's meeting we welcome Frank Piper, KI8GW, Ohio Section Manager for the ARRL. Frank will update us on what's happening at the League HQ, as well as within the Great Lakes Division and the state. There has been a lot of activity with the FCC as well as within the Ohio Legislature with regard to regulatory and operating issues.

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-

LEARA 6-Meter Repeater: Vote to Discontinue & History

by Raye Bayun, N8NAP

The trustees agreed to ask the membership to discontinue support for the repeater at the March trustees meeting and it has been announced at the March and April general membership meetings as required by LEARA Bylaws. It will be brought to a final vote at the May membership meeting.

History

LEARA was donated the 444.400 and the 53.23 repeaters by a local ham that lost his free site and work load lessened his hobby time. Both repeaters were installed at the now closed Metrohealth site alongside 146.76, at no cost to LEARA via donations and antenna loans by K8SGX and N8NAP. The repeaters were run on 2 ports of the RLC3 controller with a UHF command transceiver,



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!

146.76 and the autopatch (in testing) on the remaining 3. There was very little use of 53.23 with the only regulars on it being K8WLF and N8NAP. The repeater output on 53.23 was also overshadowed by the "legal"

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Al Amster	W8TTY
Don Raith	N8DJG
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Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)

POINTS OF CONTACT

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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



As I sit here watching the monsoon rains fall outside my window (boy, I'm glad I cut the grass last night) I'm reminded of a topic I've wanted to bring up for some time. Last Friday evening, 7 May, there was a Skywarn net on 146.88, because of severe weather in the area. From what I understand, most of the nasty stuff stayed along the lake shore and clobbered Lakewood, downtown Cleveland and points somewhat east.

Anyway, during the net I was very disappointed to hear many stations checking in with what seemed to be very marginal signals. This surprised me, since the 88 machine has pretty reliable coverage in what was the primary storm track. The machine does NOT, however, provide HT coverage for the county – no repeater can do that, and to expect it would be foolish. Please, if you're going to participate in the Skywarn net, try to experiment beforehand (that's what the Wednesday training nets are for) to find a good spot for you to operate where you can be heard efficiently by net control. I realize that there are those of you who would rather not be connected to a large outside antenna during a lightning storm, and that's fine – but please try to use sufficient power and antenna to ensure a readable signal into the repeater.

At our April meeting, we announced the intention of discontinuing the six meter repeater. According to the Bylaws of the organization, we must have a vote of the membership present at a meeting to allow this, so we'll be making that decision at the May business meeting. If you'd like an opportunity to voice your opinion on the matter please attend the meeting.

Unfortunately, the IRLP system is STILL not working as I write this. WB8APD replaced the hard disk and reinstalled the system, but another trip to the repeater site is necessary to finish the connection and configuration. I hope to be able to accomplish that in the very near future.

If you have an interest in helping out LEARA by serving on the Board of Trustees, please let a member of the nominating committee know. This year's nominating committee consists of W8AZO, KC8FOC, and K2RJ.

Kelly, KC8UIX, has been working on developing the necessary system to

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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.

LEARA 6-Meter Repeater

continued

(Continued from page 1)

sidebands of WKYC DTV Ch2 during all of LEARA's ownership of 53.23. Since then WKYC has moved off Ch2, Ch3 and is on UHF ch 17, However rumors still persist that they will be moving back to either Ch2 or Ch 3 and at a much higher power level. The old tower with both the Ch2, ch3 antennas was supposed to be taken down last summer, it's still there. Nearest DTV Ch2 is in Bangor Main and since 6 meters only opens 2-5% of the time, It's not an issue

There are many different 6 meter offsets, LEARA'S ran 1 mhz, some radios default to 500 khz. Some users had their radios set to receive correctly but were transmitting on 52.73 instead of 52.23 and unable to bring up the repeater. Sideband operations run Horizontal, FM runs vertical polarization, that can make a 20db difference. The receive site was located on an Ohio Educational Television tower, which MARCS took over and took down. A promise was made to help the multiple ham owners on it to find new sites but that has fallen thru. All the antenna's and feedlines were destroyed. that took out the input sites for 3 6 meter repeaters including LEARA's. While some options for a new input site were being pursued, the Metrohealth shutdown came about and primary efforts moved to relocating 146.76. Having lost both the transmit and the receive site, 2 free sites for 53.23 can't be found.

LEARA has a 220 and 2 440 repeaters that get little use., No one I know of has complained that 53.23 is off the air. I suspect very few LEARA members have 6 meter FM as well.

The only methods I see of getting users on 53.23 or any part of 6 meter FM is with advanced options, unavailable locally such as IRLP or Echolink and that's only if there's no DTV on CH 2 or 3 in the area.

Please vote at the May meeting.

76 Repeater Update

We're still waiting to schedule the tower-climb and equipment movement to the new site. In the meantime, the Trustees approved buying a new controller which is being assembled and installed by Bill, K8SGX. Ron, K2RJ -AR-

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...!

Did You Forget?

32 FORMER LEARA members did not renew and have been removed from the active roll. If you just forgot, you can still get yourself up-to-date by paying \$25 at the May meeting!

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conduct the election on the web this year. Stay tuned for news on that front, as we continue to test and set things up. Later in the year, we may try a 'mock election' to see if there are any problems BEFORE the real thing. Of course, if you cannot participate via electronic ballot, we'll have regular paper ballots available.

The amateur radio year is heating up – the Dayton Ham-vention was this past weekend, and Field Day is just a bit more than a month away. I didn't attend Dayton this year (car repairs before radio gear, unfortunately) but I'm really looking forward to Field Day. I encourage all of you to come out and visit the crew (and help out with setup or tear down if you're able), operate someone else's radio for a change, make a few new contacts and enjoy the fellowship. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Okay, enough of my rambling. I'll see you all at the May meeting, or catch you on the air! -AR-

LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information

by David Noeth, KD8ACO

The last Saturday night LEARA SSTV Net for the season will be on May 22, 2010. After a brief summer vacation, the SSTV net is scheduled to resume in October. If you haven't done so already, now is the perfect time to give it a try.

Field Day weekend will be here before you know it (June 26-27, 2010). This is a great opportunity to learn and participate in a hands-on way with the setup, operation, and teardown of an Amateur Radio station. Your help and participation would be greatly appreciated. Hope you can join us for all or just a part of this Amateur Radio tradition. You won't regret it! Please get in contact with me at kd8aco@leara.org, if you are interested in putting LEARA "On The Air" again this year during Field Day.

Stay tuned to the LEARA Thursday Club Net and The Spirit of '76 and '88 Newsletter for additional information, as it becomes available.

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets have returned 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 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 146.880 (- 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 eighty-five (85) check-ins from forty (40) different stations. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Bill AC8CO, David AD8WS, Arp K8ARP, Mike K8EHP, Jeff K8JTK, Fred K8PP, Steve K8SAS, John KA8GZA, Bill KA8VIT, Leone KB8VBR, Carl KB8VXE, Jeff KC8FNK, John KC8FOC, Jeannie KC8MNW, Neil KC8OMO, Ron KC8RRA, Jeanne KC8TJH, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Laura KD8MBJ, Joe KD8MUX, George KD8NBZ, Mary KD8NGC, Kevin KE8XF, Ken KG8DN, Mike

KG8MTG, Don KJ5KB, Fred N8AHS, Eric N8AUC, Raye N8NAP, Bill N8UPZ, Bob W2THU, Bernie W8AJZ, Matt W8DEC, Paul W8PJW, Ray W8SLZ, Stu W8STU, John WA8LGM, Gary WA8TJL, and Dick WA8TPP.

Net Control Stations: Bob W2THU, David KD8ACO, Eric N8AUC, Bill AC8CO, and Ken KG8DN.

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

5/13/10	David	KD8ACO
5/20/10	Eric	N8AUC
5/27/10	Ken	KG8DN
6/3/10	Bill	AC8CO
6/10/10	Bob	W2THU
6/17/10	David	KD8ACO
6/24/10	Eric	N8AUC

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 last SSTV net for the season will be on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

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

Upcoming Hamfests

HAMFEST

06/06/2010 | Hamfest and Computer Show

Location: Butler, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Breeze Shooters ARC

[Learn More](#)

HAMFEST

06/20/2010 | Chamfest

Location: Erie, PA

Type: non-ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Erie Red Cross Chapter

[Learn More](#)

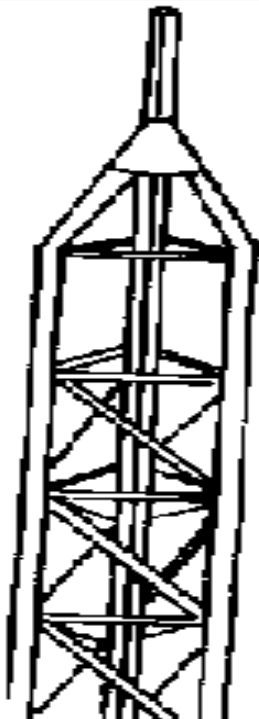
HAMFEST

07/10/2010 | 9th NW PA Hamfest

Location: Erie, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Union City Wireless & Wattsburg Wireless Associations

[Learn More](#)*(Continued from page 4)*

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-

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

EXAM SESSION

05/23/2010 | Newton Falls OH 44444-1639

Sponsor: Warren ARA

Location: Newton Falls Community Center

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

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/02/2010 | Stow OH 44224-4097

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

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

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/05/2010 | Kirtland OH 44094-8500

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/05/2010 | Ravenna OH 44266-2708

Sponsor: Portage County ARS, Inc

Location: Center of Hope

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/05/2010 | Rittman OH 44270-1431

Sponsor: Silvercreek ARA

Location: Rittman Public Library

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

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/16/2010 | Youngstown OH 44509-2949

Sponsor: Western Reserve Amateur Radio

Location: EMA Building

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

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

06/20/2010 | Elyria OH 44035-1343

Sponsor: Lorain County ARA Red Cross

Location: American Red Cross

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

[Learn More](#)

MEETING OF THE LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Guests: KC8UIX, KC8VXE

1. Call to Order – WD8JMM called the meeting to order at 0910.
2. Corrections to and Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minute number 8 was corrected by replacing “steeplejack” with “an antenna.” Minute number 15 was corrected to read that Raye contacted the owner of the 146.895 MHz repeater. (It is not owned by PCARS.)
3. Treasurer’s Report - WB8APD reported the balance in the club checking account with no bills outstanding.
4. Membership Report - W8AZO reported that we have 196 paid, active full time members and that 32 did not renew from last year.
5. Nomination Committee Report (Progress in finding candidates)– W8AZO reported that the committee needs to actively recruit candidates.
6. Programs for 2010 – W2THU reported that the ARRL Ohio Section Manager, Frank Piper KI8GW will be our May speaker and that all other months for this year are covered.
7. KB8PEC – Discussion revealed that although previously warned in writing, and after a telephone communication from the president, WD8JMM, that Gregg is allegedly still behaving badly on the repeater. KC8FOC moved, seconded by K8EHP that W2THU compose a letter to be submitted to the FCC and the ARRL Official Observer in the event that the objectionable behavior continues. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Technical Committee Report – WD8JMM stated that the repeaters are working well, but that he needs to go to the 146.88 site in order to properly connect the IRLP box to the controller to enable IRLP. This was after WB8APD had replaced the computer hard drive that runs the IRLP software.
9. Status of 444.40 Repeater – N8OOF reported that he and Jeff had been too busy to attend to this matter and they hope to have the time to get it up and running soon.
10. Status of 146.76 repeater – WB8APD reported that he has been to the new site with K8SGX and N8AUC. Items to install the repeater, such as hardline, donut, and hangers have been donated. The steeplejack indicated that he will charge about \$800.00 for two people to install the antenna. N8NAP moved, seconded by N8OOF that LEARA pay up to \$1,000.00 for steeplejack services. The motion passed unanimously. We still need a UHF antenna for the remote links and control.
11. Other Committee Reports – N8NAP said that the Promotional Committee has not made a report. Raye has some ideas to promote ham radio such as using the IRLP. He prepared a list for KC8FOC. N8OOF said that there has been no report from the Bylaws Revision Committee.

12. Ham Radio Exhibit for Library Display Cases, etc – W2THU reported that after N8YNR published the article in our Newsletter requesting help from the membership, that Dee Logan, WIHEO reminded LEARA via email that the Ham Radio Promotional Project (HRPP) had already prepared materials on this subject. LEARA, as a sponsor of the HRPP received a CD from Dee showing how to do this. W2THU will turn this CD over to Bryan and Jeff.

13. Status of Electronic Balloting – Kelly, KC8UIX reported that she had a mock election ballot emailed to all the trustees but only 5 voted. Some trustees said they never received it. Kelly will open up a new election to test the system further. She said that if it is not working properly we need to know in time to hold a conventional election.

14. Status of sale of RLC-3 Controller – WB8APD said he might bring the controller to the Dayton Hamvention and sell it there.

15. Field Day and LEARA QSL cards– N8AUC had emailed the Board saying the permit to use the FD site is ready to be paid for. WB8APD already mailed him the check. WA8TJL said that he would like some more help in bringing all of the catering items to the site and KD8ACO immediately agreed to assist. KC8FOC suggested that we solicit the general membership via the LEARA weekly net to help set up the FD site. W8AZO said he will send out a message on the email list to all members, too.

16. 6 meter repeater (surrender of frequency pair, article for Newsletter).- N8NAP wrote an article for the May Newsletter explaining the history of this repeater and why the Board has recommended discontinuing it. Because the bylaws require membership approval, a vote will be taken at the May meeting.

17. Status of interference by the 146.895 repeater in Portage County to our 146.88 repeater. N8NAP said they got the deviation down but there is still a problem.

18. Trustee Emeritus – N8NAP suggested that K8SGX meets the qualifications to be a Trustee Emeritus and he so moved. W2THU said that Bill easily satisfies the requirements of dedication to LEARA and the amateur radio community. However, someone indicated that K8SGX wants to be an active trustee again so the motion was not seconded.

19. Wyse WT9450XE donation – N8NAP has donated this small PC to LEARA to use as a back up for the IRLP computer. Alex has it in his possession. Ray brought another one to the meeting in which he had installed the IRLP board and loaded the IRLP software, too.

20. 88 repeater command receiver/ 76 link transmitter antenna – N8NAP reported that this UHF yagi antenna needs to be replaced due to wear and tear.

21. New Business - None

22. Motion to Adjourn was made by WB8APD, seconded by N8OOF and passed unanimously at 1050.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M. Winston W2THU
Recording Secretary

Where Are the Sunspots?

by Tad Cook, K7RA, via ARRL



This lack of sunspots is bothersome. Thursday -- May 13 -- is the fifth day in a row with no spots, and there is no sign of any change. The solar flux has been declining and is now below 70. The predicted solar flux for May 14-19 is 70, then 74 on May 20, 75 on May 21-22, 76 May 23, 78 May 24-25 and 80 for May 26-31. Higher solar flux tends to correlate with more sunspot activity. The same forecast -- actually from NOAA and USAF -- calls for planetary A index of 7 for May 14, 12 for May 15-16, 8 on May 17, 5 on May 18-19 and 13 on May 20. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions May 14, unsettled May 15, quiet to unsettled May 16, quiet May 17-19 and unsettled May 20.

Prior to all this quiet, we saw nine new sunspot groups emerge April 28-May 8, with high daily sunspot numbers of 70 and 77 for May 4-5. You can see the sunspot numbers for the first three months of 2010 at [here](#) and [here](#) for the indices since April 1. Sunspot numbers for May 6-12 were 45, 24, 23, 0, 0, 0 and 0, with a mean of 13.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 79.1, 79, 78.8, 75.4, 73.6, 73.5 and 71.2, with a mean of 75.8. The estimated planetary A indices were 10, 9, 6, 4, 5, 8 and 5, with a mean of 6.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 10, 4, 1, 4, 6 and 4, with a mean of 5.

Luke Steele, VK3HJ, sent a report from Australia on May 13, where fall began as spring started in the northern hemisphere and winter begins in late June. Luke's grid locator is QF22it and he is in Southeast Australia in Victoria. Luke writes, "Just when we were enjoying improving propagation, conditions have subsided again. Until about a month ago, all bands were working reasonably well, but with the onset of winter, all seems to have gone quiet. Tonight, I had to abandon an 80 meter club

net, as I couldn't copy stations 50 miles away. A VK5 station called in, reporting VK3s strong there, about 500 miles away. This happened last winter also. DX worked this evening, JD1BMK on 20 meters CW -- about 569 here -- and a special event station HL30GDM in Korea on 40 meters, about 579. With a spotless Sun, and not much happening on air, I will finally get onto some repairs to the boat anchors, construction of my High Performance Software Defined Radio kit, work on my 160 meter vertical antenna and catch up on my QSLing!"

Luke is experiencing that 80 meter condition in which the maximum usable frequency beaming straight up is not high enough to support regional communications. You can see it in the foF2 readings for Australian ionosondes at Canberra, Darwin and Brisbane.

The foF2 reading is taken by beaming a radio signal straight up as it is swept through the HF radio spectrum and measuring the highest frequency that reflects back. Because local and regional 80 meter coverage depends on this high angle radiation, the foF2 number is a good indicator of the viability of regional coverage. Go [here](#) to find data for those same locations back through February and many other locations as well.

Check out Luke's page and click on his photo for a closer look. Note that recently Luke has worked as a farrier. K5DHY has an image of a recent QSL from Luke [here](#).

Bob Elek, W3HKK, in Central Ohio had some excitement on 6 meters recently. On May 8, Bob wrote, "The sudden rise in sunspots and high K levels of May 3-4 caused a previously dead band to explode with signals from the Gulf Coast of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and even Texas, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. Dozens of signals peaked 59+ on my 40 meter ground plane antenna. Stunned by what I was missing, I rushed out and bought a 5 el 6 meter Yagi, assembled it onto a 6 foot high mast strapped to my propane grill on the back deck and turned by the Armstrong method. Alas, the band has been quiet ever since, even for tonight's 50 MHz Sprint. But I'll be prepared for the next opening! The season is nearing for sporadic E, I am told."

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

- 40 Years of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969 -

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) |

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.
Those who subscribe via e-mail will not receive a paper copy.