



The Spirit of '76 and '88



March

Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

2012

Editor: Ken Kane, KG8DN

On March 27 at JB Milano's our guest is **Rick Swain, KK8O** ARRL Official Observer Coordinator for the Ohio Section



As LEARA heads to the northeast part of town on our tour of restaurants, we look forward to meeting the Coordinator of Ohio's **Official Observers for the ARRL**. The OO's, as they are called, monitor the amateur bands listening for both the "bad stuff" and the "good stuff" that happens in ham land on the radio. **Rick Swain, KK8O**, will discuss his own activities and those of his official observer crew. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting program starts near 7:30 PM.

When you reserve your dinner, choose from among the following:

- Spaghetti (w. or w/o meat balls)
- Salmon
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Steak Cowboy

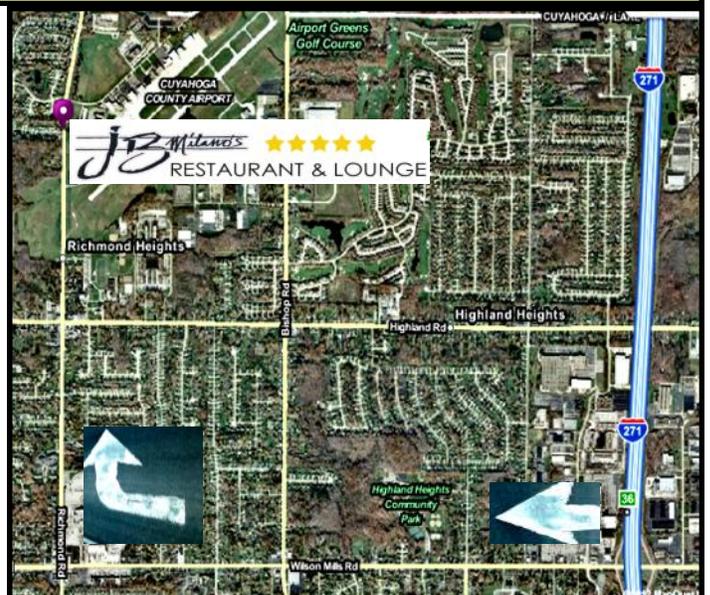
Your \$20. provides one of the above entrées with a salad and beverage. Tax and tip are also included. The complete menu details for these entrée items can be found online at www.jbmilano.com. Bar beverages can also be purchased that evening at the restaurant.

To reserve your dinner (before 11:00 AM that day, please), either telephone Marv Grossman's line at 440-248-0031, or go to the club website online at www.leara.org.

Make your dinner reservation either way, or just **come to the meeting** near the start time of 7:30 PM. We all hope to see you then at JB Milano's on the night of March 27!

-AR-

Round Three of the Restaurant Tour
It's **JB Milano's** for the March 27 Meeting!
I-271 to Wilson Mills West to Richmond North
JB Milano's, 355 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights., 44143
At the Cuyahoga County Airport!



OFFICERS

Alex Manuk President	WD8JMM 216-459-8523
Gary Zimmet Vice President	WA8TJL 440-446-0402
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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Bill Schultz	AC8CO 216-765-1328
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TRUSTEES EMERITI

Al Amster	W8TTY
Don Raith	N8DJG (SK)
Fred Collins	W8ADW(SK)
John Radney	KC8FOC(SK)
Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)

POINTS OF CONTACT

Kelly Manuk "Sunshine"	KC8UIX 216-459-8523
Bill Hess Radio Officer	K8SGX 440-286-9779
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 be sufficient.)

Editor: Ken Kane, KG8DN

E-mail: editor@leara.org

Proofreading: TNX to

Marv, W8AZO and Jeff, N8YNR

The ides of March...although it feels a lot more like May, this year. 65 and sunny sure is easy to take. I spent the weekend outside enjoying as much of the weather as I could. It was beautiful and a great appetizer for our upcoming summer.

The fact that the weather is improving is a sign that it's time to start thinking about Skywarn. The Skywarn net is meeting weekly on '76 again, Wednesday nights. Check in if you're able; let the net controls know you're interested in what they're doing. Skywarn doesn't work without your participation, so help 'em out when you can.

The same thing goes for the LEARA net, on Thursday nights. It's an opportunity to catch up on LEARA news in between newsletters, and connect with the rest of the gang in an informal way. I have to confess I don't check into either net as often as I should.

I missed last month's LEARA meeting, but I have it on good authority that the presentation, the meeting, and the business conducted was well done and most of the folks that attended came away happy.

The 2012 LEARA restaurant tour continues in March with a visit to JB Milano's in Richmond Heights. I've never been there, but everybody I've talked to who has been there says it's a great place, with good food and a comfortable atmosphere. I'm a west-sider, so I'll be driving over from work (in Euclid, so I'll be there PLENTY early) but it'll be nice to see how the east side treats its guests.

Our presenter this month is Rick Swain, who'll be talking about the Official Observer program. For those of you who haven't met Rick, you're in for a treat. He's a great guy, and puts on a fabulous show. The last time he was at a LEARA meeting, we had an absolute blast, so I'm really looking forward to seeing him again.

AND, it's not too early to start thinking about DAYTON! I don't know if I'm going to be able to get there again this year. It's the best of the best – this is where the amateur radio community shows off its newest equipment, people get together for

(Continued on page 3)

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., **LEARA**, is a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and Public Service. Club information packets and applications for membership are available from **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, 440-248-0031**, or may be downloaded from our web site at www.leara.org. Annual membership is \$25.00. **LEARA's address** is: LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

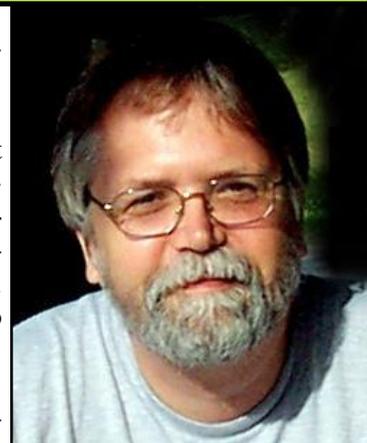
LEARA is an **ARRL**-affiliated club. When you join or renew the **ARRL**, **LEARA** benefits monetarily if you so through the club. Send **ARRL** Applications/renewals to Club Treasurer Dave Foran, WB8APD, 5439 Nan Linn Dr. Willoughby, OH 44094-4365. Make the check payable to **LEARA**, not the **ARRL**.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month (except December and June) at a Cleveland-area restaurant to be announced each month in the newsletter. The LEARA newsletter usually arrives near the middle of the month. 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 typically 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 AM in a first floor room at the Highland Hills Village Hall, 3700 Northfield Road. Meetings are open to all current members of LEARA.

The Prez Says

by Alex Manuk, WD8JMM



(Continued from page 2)

that once-a-year eyeball meeting, and EVERYBODY gets sunburned. Yeah, I know, it's gonna rain (always does), but not all weekend. If you haven't been, you owe it to yourself to check it out, and if you have, you KNOW what I'm talking about.

**Prez,
cont.**

One more thing...FIELD DAY! LEARA's June party/picnic/contest/operating event/experimenter's outing/sleepover... well, you get the idea. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June (that would make it the 23rd and 24th this year). We always have a great time, with great food, good fellowship, lots of opportunity to operate each other's radios, and a whole weekend of great STORIES! That's what makes an amateur radio get-together special – the STORIES!

So, mark your calendars early – June 23 & 24 at Upper Gordon Park – it'll be a wonderful weekend, like always!

That's all I've got this month – I'm looking forward to seeing some of our east-side members at JB Milano's – it's gonna be great!

73, de Alex WD8JMM -AR-

ARES Sets Digital Communication Plans, Activities

<http://cms.ohioares10.org/district-staff/>

The Spring **ARES Leadership Conference** held on March 1 resulted in plans for 2012 to support and connect amateur ARES members all across Ohio. This gathering in Mansfield was the first of three major planning sessions involving the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in our State. The others to follow are the **Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference** on July 21 in Gates Mills, and also the **All-Ohio ARES Fall Conference**, planned to take place sometime in late October, in Delaware County.

“At Mansfield we found that Fldigi software, a free downloadable package, has now become very popular in Ohio,” commented Matt Welch, W8DEC, new Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator. “It seems reasonable to establish it as our State digital communication standard for use across Ohio.” (See also <http://cms.ohioares10.org/digital-comms/>)

In specific terms, using Fldigi software, the Ohio ARES group plans to focus on the following emergency digital modes as a general practice:

MT63 “1K” for HF communications
(with Olivia as a backup)

MT63 “2K” for VHF/UHF communications
(with PSK31 as a backup)

“Two events this spring are related to ARES preparation” Matt continued. “We plan a **Statewide HF Net** in April involving the digital modes, and the new **Buckeye Public Service Net**, also in April and set up by George Muenster, WD8GEO. This second net will be connecting three modes simultaneously: IRLP, Echolink and ALLSTAR.”

Also, during the **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** the first weekend in October, the plan includes establishing control points in Emergency Operations Centers and in various hospitals to practice passing traffic through digital communications.

Voleski, Welch Take On New Ohio ARES Roles



Mike Voleski, KD8JUF, of Mentor, also a hospital emergency administrator in Medina, was recently named as the new **District Emergency Coordinator for District 10**, to succeed Matt Welch, W8DEC, as Matt assumes his Statewide position of Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator.

Congratulations to both Matt and Mike. We wish you well!

Ken Kane, KG8DN -AR-

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

03/18/2012 | [Elyria OH 44035-1343](http://www.arrl.org)

Sponsor: American Red Cross

Location: American Red Cross

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

[Learn More](#)

03/25/2012 | [Newton Falls OH 44444-1639](http://www.arrl.org)

Sponsor: Warren ARA

Location: Newton Falls Community Center

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

[Learn More](#)

04/07/2012 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](http://www.arrl.org)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

04/15/2012 | [Elyria OH 44035-1343](http://www.arrl.org)

Sponsor: American Red Cross

Location: American Red Cross

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

[Learn More](#)

04/20/2012 | [Cleveland OH 44106-1712](http://www.arrl.org)

Sponsor: W8EDU

Location: Case Western Reserve University

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

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from www.arrl.org

03/18/2012

[TMRA Hamfest/Computer Fair](#)

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Website: <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

[Learn More](#)

04/14/2012

[Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 58th Annual Hamfest](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2012.html>

[Learn More](#)

05/18/2012

[Dayton Hamvention](#)

Location: Trotwood, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.hamvention.org>

[Learn More](#)

Bus to Dayton & Back?

From K-Mart in either Middleburg Heights
or at I-71 & Rt. 303: www.2cars.org

From Akron Baptist Temple on Manchester Rd.
Rt. 93 near Rt. 224: **330-745-5115**

Your Early Summer Calendar

March 27, 2012	LEARA—KK8O Official Observers	JB Milano's in Richmond Heights
April 12, 2012	Cuyahoga County Skywarn Training	www.ccskywarn.org
April 24, 2012	LEARA—TBA	Stancato's Italian Restaurant, Parma
May 29, 2012	LEARA—TBA	May Location TBA
June 23-24, 2012	LEARA FIELD DAY	Cleveland Lakefront State Park

LEARA "On The Air"

Club Net Information

by David Noeth, KD8ACO

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly slow scan TV net is now on summer break. A special thank you goes to Terry, K8TJM, for all his efforts in keeping this net active during the winter months.

Interested in digital modes? Why not give the Thursday ARES digital communications net a try? This net is held the first Thursday of every month at 9 PM local time, following the LEARA club net.

Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn practice nets are on the 146.76 (- 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 146.88 (- 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 146.76 (- 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-nine (89) check-ins from thirty-nine (39) different stations. The following were reported by our net control stations to have participated:

Tom AA7TC, Bill AC8CO, Tony AI8M, Mike K8EHP, John K8ISY, Jeff K8JTK, Jim K8QOT, Steve K8SAS, Bill K8WHB, Fritz K8WLF, Bill KA8VIT, Lilly KB8MHZ, Leone KB8VBR, Carl KB8VXE, Mark KC8FQV, Joe KC8RAN, Jeanne KC8TJH, Jess KD8ACJ, David KD8ACO, Eddie KD8FTS, Joseph KD8OVQ, Kevin KD8QAZ, Mark John KD8QMO, Dean KD8RRA, Ken KG8DN, Eric N8AUC, Bryan N8OOF, Scott N8SX, Bill N8UPZ, Bob W2THU, Matt W8DEC, Ted W8IXY, John WA8LGM, Gary WA8TJL, Dick WA8TPP, Linda WB8QLT, Ed WB8ROK, Malcolm WD8EHI and George WD8GEO.

Net Control Stations: Eric N8AUC, David KD8ACO, Joe KC8RAN and Bob W2THU.

Upcoming NCS assignments are:

3/15/12	Eric	N8AUC
3/22/12	David	KD8ACO
3/29/12	Matt	W8DEC
4/5/12	Bob	W2THU
4/12/12	Ken	KG8DN
4/19/12	Bill	AC8CO
4/26/12	Jeanne	KC8TJH

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.

Thursday ARES Digital Communications Net

The ARES digital communications net is held on the 146.76 (- offset, 110.9 PL) the first Thursday of every month at 9 PM local time. David Schultz, AD8WS, can be contacted for further information concerning this net.

Friday SSTV Net

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly slow scan TV net is now on summer break. Why not give the Thursday ARES digital communications net a try (see above for details), until the SSTV net resumes?

Wanted! Net Control Stations

We now have seven 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. Please send me an email at kd8aco@leara.org if you are interested. Hope to talk with you "on the air" soon!

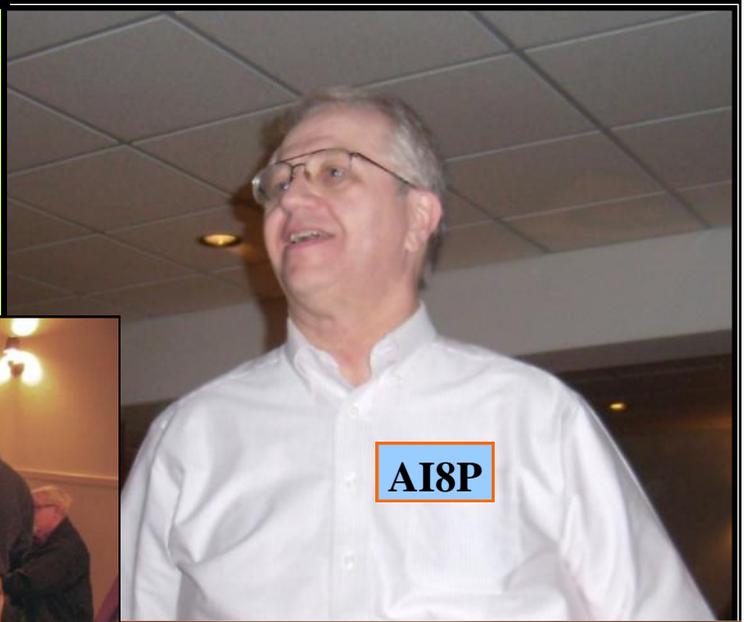
de David, KD8ACO -AR-

February 28 LEARA meeting
at KD Party Center in Parma

Antenna Modeling

Dennis Conklin, AI8P

Thanks, Dennis!





Antenna Modeling
with Venue Committee
and By-Laws Approval



Based on Member Preferences

Venue Committee Makes Its Recommendations

The following is an excerpt from the longer report filed by KD8FTS and KC8KSU with the LEARA Trustees:

Since the membership has indicated that they would like to try different locations, it is our suggestion that we rotate through the restaurants that are still viable options. Here is our recommended dinner meeting rotation schedule for the next two months:

March: JB Milano's Restaurant

355 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights (East)

April: Stancato's Italian Restaurant

7380 State Road (West)

Restaurants for future meetings are still being investigated.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Stevens and Sara Torok
de KD8FTS et KC8KSU -AR-

LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE'S MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING

10 March 2012 at the Highland Hills (Ohio) Village Hall

(Subject to Revision)

Present: WD8JMM, K8SGX, N8XDO, W8AZO, WB8APD, KG8DN, K8EHP, WA8TJL, KD8ACO, N8AUC, K8JTK, AC8CO, N8OOF.

Guest club members: KD8FTS and KC8KSU.

Excused: W2THU, N8YNR.

1. WD8JMM called the meeting to order at 0905 hrs.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were not readily available, but were accepted in the form that was previously published.
3. Treasurer's report from WB8APD: He noted that there are adequate funds on hand. Accepted.
4. Membership report: Marv W8AZO said we have 158 paid up members at this time, with 60 members that have not yet paid from 2011. (These latter are still members until the end of this month.)
5. Technical Committee: Bill K8SGX reported that he is working on the '88 repeater, and that most of the expenses of building the repeater have already been paid. He mentioned that there is an audio input problem on '76, but isn't sure which input is involved. He plans to get the autopatch on '76 checked out later in the day today. Other than that, there are no serious issues with the repeaters. The net mode access routine on '76 seems to be working properly. The group discussed some details regarding the establishment of the input at Case. The western input for '76 will be

moved to Case to facilitate communications during the Cleveland Marathon. The antennas at Case are ready to go, and K8SGX with AC8CO will be working to get the Case input radio equipment in place before the Dayton Hamvention (at N8AUC's suggestion). The three will collaborate in getting the gear deployed for these changes.

6. Alex WD8JMM invited the group to recap the February LEARA dinner meeting. N8AUC led congratulations by the group to Gary WA8TJL for his leadership of the meeting. In the recap, we noted that the Proposed Amended By-Laws were passed at the meeting by a vote of 20 to 4. The standing by-laws committee will continue the work by receiving input from the membership. AC8CO stated that Tom KA8BZB has given him some items that Tom believes the standing committee should consider. N8OOF asserted that the by-laws standing committee will consider Tom's and any other ideas or materials that are submitted.
7. N8OOF observed that LEARA had changed a good deal since the by-laws were originally written. He believes we need a method for modifying the by-laws that is appropriately streamlined. This streamlining could include providing suggestions in advance to the members, announcing these at a monthly meeting, polling the membership somehow, and then taking a vote. Along similar lines, N8AUC suggested we use

(Continued from page 8)

- a procedure like that used with shareholders of a business that publishes a proxy statement prior to an annual meeting, thus permitting the shareholders a way to provide input at that meeting. Several present thought that the October LEARA “annual business meeting” could be the time that we follow this kind of procedure, and there was consensus that the committee follow through in promoting this change.
8. WD8JMM invited KD8FTS and KC8KSU to discuss the work that they had done as the venue committee. They distributed a detailed report including previous survey results and the responses of the members present at the February meeting. They mentioned that KD Party Center had been the only restaurant or caterer (among the 31 establishments they polled) that was willing to provide a dinner for as low as \$16 per person. Further, they reported that the members don't seem to object to buffet-style, that they do not want to drive more than 25 miles to a meeting, and that the majority of diners (a little over half) live on the east side of Cleveland. 26 members present (a large majority) favored rotating through various restaurants for a while. Ethnic food seemed to be low on the priority list, with either American or Italian preferred. Eddie and Sara plan to put up a new online survey soon to gather more data from a wider scope of the LEARA membership, and they submitted in their report some suggested questions. There was further discussion and some modification of the recommendations as submitted. N8AUC moved and N8OOF seconded that we set JB Milano's as the March meeting location and Stancato's as the location for the April meeting. Alex overtly thanked Eddie and Sara for their very thorough work.
 9. The online management of electronic surveys and elections using the Voting Place service will be transferred from Kelly KC8UIX to Jeff K8JTK at their mutual convenience. Sara KC8KSU asked that we confirm our interest in the upcoming survey online to obtain further meeting location preferences, and there was general approval.
 10. N8AUC commented that Rick Swain, KK8O, is an excellent, gregarious presenter, and that he looks forward to being our guest speaker at the March meet-

ing. His topic will be to explain his role as the Official Observer Coordinator for the Ohio Section ARRL.

11. David KD8ACO indicated that the Friday evening SSTV net seems to have slowed down, and will go into hibernation for the summer. He wondered whether we wanted to publish the ARES digital net (David AD8WS is the contact) within the “LEARA On the Air” column. The group consensus was that this listing is OK. N8AUC commented that ARES has its primary net on 145.41 as a voice net, and that ARES information should not be construed as applying only to a particular club.
12. Jeff K8JTK announced that the LEARA website hosting has been completely moved over to Dreamhost. He continues to make modifications and upgrades. He has an interest in doing Radio Reference streaming, especially for Skywarn and the club repeaters ('76 and '88). [See radioreference.com for more. This site will bring up the feeds that are streamed online.] This service allows one to monitor audio with a phone at work, for example, as well as online using the various digital media players. The consensus was that Jeff should go ahead with this plan.
13. Jeff K8JTK announced that he has been elected to life membership in the Wood County (OH) Amateur Radio club.
14. The meeting adjourned at 1040 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ken Kane, KG8DN for

Bob Winston, W2THU, Secretary

In Memory

**LEARA joins
Jeff N8YNR
with
Lori KC8MYE
as they mourn the
recent loss of his
father, Steve.**



Stephen F. Garvas

STATEHOUSE HAPPENINGS – An excerpt from the Ohio Section News H.B. 158 — Antenna Structures — Where Are We?

http://arri-ohio.org/sm/Section_News.html

We all cheered on Feb. 15 when the Senate Local Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee voted in favor of H.B. 158. **But, we're not home yet**, though this is the closest we've gotten in this over four-year effort. The passage of H.B. 158 by the Senate Committee included amendments that actually made the Bill stronger for radio amateurs. ... Now, the Bill simply states, in pertinent part, "**The legislative authority shall not restrict** the height or location of amateur station antenna structures in such a way as to prevent effective amateur radio service communications and shall comply with 47 C.F.R. 97.15."

However, we now have significant differences between the version passed by the House ... and the version approved by the Senate Committee. If the entire Senate passes the version voted out by the Senate Committee we will have two conflicting versions of the Bill. ...

We have communicated to the leading legislators that **the amateur community is happy with the Senate version** and that we fully support the final passage of that version. Assuming we can get the Bill passed in the Senate and the conflict resolved, it will then go to Governor Kasich for signature. Although it has not been controversial so far, the nearer a bill comes to becoming law, the more intense the level of public scrutiny. **We may be asking you to express your support for this legislation** to the Governor as well as to individual members of the Senate. ...

At this point it's fair to say that significant progress is being made and there is reason to hope that we may actually see this legislation become law. And, while that is a significant accomplishment for the Ohio amateurs, it is by no means the end of all antenna restrictions, since **this legislation applies only to local zoning regulations** (deed, condominium and other contractual restrictions are not affected) and even with respect to local zoning, it should not be viewed as a "blank check" for unrestricted antenna height or location. That said, we will be in a far better position with respect to local zoning authorities with the legislation than without.

Nick Pittner, K8NAP
State Government Liaison, Ohio Section
k8nap@arri.net

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association - 42 Years of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969 -

VOICE REPEATERS:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 146.76/R- | • Highland Hills (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+ | • Macedonia (Requires 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:

- 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.