



# The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the  
**April Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2020**  
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



## LEARA April 28. Meeting **Virtual Meeting - Online**

**Bob Winston, W2THU**  
**Ham Radio and the Law**

There is some interesting legislation working its way through the Ohio Legislature which may impact ham radio, particularly mobile use.

Bob will have the latest on that.  
(More details in "The Prez" column)

## The Prez Says

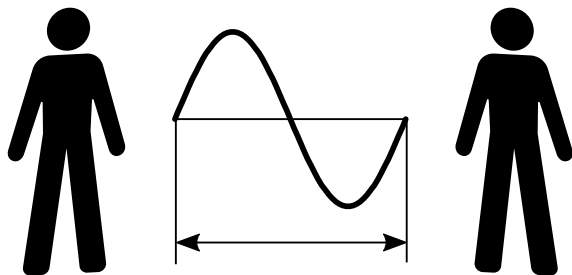
by Bryan Torok, N8OOF



The March Meeting was replaced by having a special LEARA meeting/net on the 146.76 repeater, hosted by Eric Jessen, N8AUC. We had 27 check-ins, more than a typical LEARA net, and very nearly the attendance we often see at meetings. Eric asked a series of questions of the participants regarding their experience using YouTube, whether they have an account, or experience watching or participating in streaming videos. Eric was asking those questions because at that time we anticipated holding our meeting and presentation using YouTube streaming with a

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## Social Distancing



**Keep one wavelength  
apart at 146.76 MHz**

**Prez cont.**

<b>OFFICERS and TRUSTEES</b>	
<b>Bryan Torok</b> <b>President</b>	<b>N8OOF</b> <b>btorok@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Eric Jensen</b> VP, License Trustee	<b>N8AUC</b> <b>440-554-3057</b>
<b>Jeff Garvas</b> Sec'y-Treasurer	<b>N8YNR</b> <b>216-496-3928</b>
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	
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<b>Robert Wright, II</b> Trustee	<b>KE8CEO</b> <b>216-502-1552</b>
<b>TRUSTEES EMERITI</b>	
<b>Al Amster</b>	<b>W8TTY (SK)</b>
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<b>John Radney</b>	<b>KC8FOC(SK)</b>
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<b>Al Severson</b>	<b>AB8P (SK)</b>
<b>Dave Foran</b>	<b>WB8APD (SK)</b>
<b>Bob Winston</b>	<b>W2THU</b>
<b>POINTS OF CONTACT</b>	
<b>Carl Gedeon</b> <b>"Sunshine"</b>	<b>KB8VXE</b> <b>440-243-5710</b>
<b>Bryan Torok</b> Radio Officer	<b>N8OOF</b> <b>btorok@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Dave Andrzejewski</b> Radio Officer	<b>KD8TWG</b> <b>330-353-9754</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>	
<p><b>The Spirit of '76 &amp; '88</b> is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 2nd Sunday of the month except on months with 5 Sundays and 5 Tuesdays when the 3rd Sunday will be sufficient.</p> <p>Editor: Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB E-mail: editor@leara.org</p> <p>Proofreading: TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR</p>	

chat function for members to participate. Since then, we have decided to go a different route.

**The April meeting will be held** via an online application called WebEx. Detailed instructions will be emailed several days before the meeting. But, basically it will work like this. LEARA members will receive an email with a link to click on to join the meeting. Members will have a choice between using an online app or an app downloaded and installed onto their computer, tablet, or cell phone. It is recommended for the best experience to download and install the app in advance of the meeting day. The app is free and available at <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

Once You Have the App Installed, you'll be able to go to test your set up at <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting>. On the evening of the meeting, Tuesday April 28th, at about 6:30 PM we will have the meeting live for people to check into and verify their set up is working. **Jeff Garvas, N8YNR**, will be available by 7:00 PM to help those who may need it. If all else fails, you may contact **Jeff** at, **216-496-3928 (cell or text)**. The meeting will start at 7:30 PM.

Once the meeting starts, you will have a button to click on to raise your hand. Those who wish to comment or ask a question will click the button. When you are recognized by the moderator your microphone will be turned on and you will be able to ask your question. We've used the WebEx system for Trustees' meetings and small-scale testing. Once participants have their camera, microphone, and speakers, sorted out it works very well. If you have a headset or separate microphone it is recommended that you use it.

**The April meeting program:** will be presented by **Bob Winston, W2THU**, talking about Ham Radio and the Law. There is some interesting legislation working its way through the Ohio

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](http://www.leara.org). Annual membership is \$25.00.

**LEARA's address** is: LEARA, P.O. Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

**LEARA** is an **ARRL**-affiliated club. When you **join** or **renew** the **ARRL**, **LEARA** benefits monetarily if you do so through the club. Send **ARRL** Applications/renewals to LEARA, P.O. Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823. 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. Locations for dinner may vary and often require a reservation. Those interested in dinner should arrive around 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating.

**Trustees' Meetings** are on the second Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings are open to all current members of LEARA. **Locations are subject to change.** Trustees meet at one of the Cuyahoga County Public Library branches.

Contact a trustee or check the website at [www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org) for details.

## Prez cont.

Legislature which may impact ham radio, particularly mobile use. Bob will have the latest on that.

**The elephant in the room:** is the coronavirus/COVID-19. Even before the lockdown I was pretty much stuck at home recovering from shoulder surgery. I spent several hours each day watching news reports, reading online articles, and looking at numerous charts and data sets.

When I started writing this article I was going to talk about exponential growth, data sets, and graphs. Well I've decided to scrap all that and just get to the thoughts and points I believe most are relevant to LEARA and many of our members.

As I'm writing this, it appears likely that there will be some easing of the stay-at-home orders and reopening of some businesses in Ohio during the month of May. The thing I would like our members to keep in mind is that even when that happens the virus will still be out there. If we too quickly resume our lifestyle from before COVID-19, there is a strong chance that the virus will come roaring back.

People who have one or more of the following conditions are particularly susceptible to having serious complications or death. These include those who are over age 65, have any of the following conditions: cancer, hypertension, lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, other condition that compromises the immune system, or are taking medications that suppress the immune system.

Many of our members, particularly those who attend our dinner meetings, fit into one or more of the above categories. I know I fit at least two of them. So for the foreseeable future, until a safe and effective vaccine is widely available, I will be avoiding gatherings of groups of people and specifically eating in restaurants. When I do have

to go into a public space I will be wearing a face mask.

One of the things I most enjoy about LEARA is our monthly dinner meetings, spending some social time, and getting to see all of you who come out to the meetings. I know we all want to get back to normal as quickly as we can. However, I ask you all to be patient, be careful, and stay safe.

**LEARA Fundraiser:** LEARA is continuing with our efforts to raffle off a **Honda EU 2200i generator** to raise funds for relocating the 444.400 repeater to a higher profile location which will provide coverage in southeastern Cuyahoga County and northern Summit County.



**Big generator raffle!**  
**Want a Honda EU2200i?**  
**Check out page 9!**

We need your help in selling tickets and getting the word out to others who might purchase a ticket. In this time of staying home and social distancing, I urge you to post this to your Facebook, Twitter, other social media, and email lists. Send friends and family to

<http://LEARA.org/raffle>

where they may purchase tickets. Don't be shy. Put the bite on your friends, family, and co-workers.

**Until next month**, stay home, talk on the radio, and use the repeaters more. Join us at a virtual meeting. Avoid contact with other people, wash your hands frequently, and stay healthy. We look forward to seeing you when this mess is over with.



## LEARA "On the Air"

### Club Net Information by Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE

The **Thursday Club Net** is held 8PM on our 146.760 (or 146.880 backup) MHz (-600 kHz offset, PL 110.9) repeater.

### Checkins for March 2020

AB8M Doug	KC8FQV Mark	N8AGM Tom
AB8UM Mike	KC8KSU Sarah	N8AUC Eric
AC8JR Andy	KC8NOV Marty	N8MPF Ron
K1QCD Frank	KC8NZJ Mat	N8OOF Bryan
K2WJS BILL	KD8ACO David	N8UPZ Bill
K8ALG Andy	KD8AJZ Rich	N8UUC Dave
K8ARP Arp	KD8FTS Eddie	NC8HF TIM
K8CVM Chuck	KD8WBB Carsten	W8DKA Doug
K8EHP Mike	KE8CED Robert	W8HF Steve
K8KBZ Keith	KE8HNC Elmer	W8IE Ed
K8PP Fred	KE8NJV Dave	W8IXY Ted
K8RJH Ron	KE8NSD Jeff	W8TAB Tom
K8SAS Steve	KE8ZZ Ed	WB8ROK Ed
KB8VXE Carl	KG8DN Ken	
KB8WJA Leon	KM8V Jon	

Remember if you missed a net, check out the web page for a recap of the trivia and discussion questions.

### Net Control Schedule

For April, May and June, the tentative scheduled NCOs are:

Please check the website for current assignments.

04/16/20	Ken	KG8DN
04/23/20	Mike	AB8UM
04/30/20	Carl	KB8VXE
05/07/20	Eric	N8AUC
05/14/20	Bill	K2WJS
05/21/20	Ken	KG8DN
05/28/20	Mike	AB8UM
06/04/20	Carl	KB8VXE
06/11/20	Eric	N8AUC
06/18/20	Ken	KG8DN
06/25/20	Bill	K2WJS

## The Wednesday Night Skywarn Practice Net

Skywarn season runs from March through September. Skywarn nets are held on LEARA's 146.760 repeater every Wednesday at 8 p.m. with a simplex net that follows on 146.475. Should the National Weather Service issue a severe weather alert, a Skywarn net will be started 146.760 repeater. Be sure to visit the web page at [www.ccskywarn.org](http://www.ccskywarn.org) for more information and training sessions.

An online Storm Spotter training video from the NWS is available at:

[www.facebook.com/NWSCleveland/videos/858879174941020/](https://www.facebook.com/NWSCleveland/videos/858879174941020/)

## ARES

The ARES meetings for April and May have been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2020; All meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month in the meeting room at the Helwig Whistle Stop 599 West Bagley Rd. Berea, OH. You do not have to be a member to attend, all are welcome.

See <http://n8esg.org/ares/> for more information. The nets are held Tuesdays on the 145.410 Repeater at 8 p.m. local time.

## Thursday Net NCOs

Do you know K2??? How about ??UPZ? Do you recognize the voice. Have you met them in person? What about N8OOF? A great way to learn who these voices belong to is to be a net controller! Consider being a net controller.

We can always use more LEARA Members to become Net Control Operators (NCOs). It's an easy to learn job that is very important in emergencies.

NCOs

AB8UM MIKE	KD8ACO DAVID
K2WJS Bill	KG8DN KEN
K8SAS STEVE	N8AUC ERIC
KB8VXE CARL	W8LIV ANDREW

We look forward to your participation!

**Carl, KB8VXE, E-Mail: [kb8vxe@arrl.net](mailto:kb8vxe@arrl.net)**

## Sunshine

Wishing everyone a healthy period while we ride out the covid19 wave.



## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, please verify with your VE team that the exam session is being held.

**05/10/2020 | [Independence OH 44131-4841](#)**

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga ARS

**Location:** Old Elmwood Recreation Center

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**[Learn More](#)**

**05/14/2020 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221-3205](#)**

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga Falls ARC

**Location:** Cuyahoga Falls Library

**Time:** 6:30 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)

**[Learn More](#)**

**05/17/2020 | [Elyria OH 44035-1343](#)**

**Sponsor:** LCARA & American Red Cross

**Location:** American Red Cross

**Time:** 12:45 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**[Learn More](#)**

**06/06/2020 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)**

**Sponsor:** Lake County ARA

**Location:** Kirtland Library

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

**[Learn More](#)**

## Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, please verify the websites of the hamfests and conventions if the event is being held.



**Dayton Hamvention  
2020**

**CANCELED**

More details here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/dayton-hamvention-announces-cancellation-of-2020-show>

No upcoming Hamfests and Conventions are scheduled for the next few months. With some luck, we will see events starting up again in July.

### COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Cancellations

David Andrzejewski is maintaining a list that's as comprehensive as possible of ham radio-related events that are canceled due to COVID-19. You can check it out here:

**<https://geaugaara.org/coronavirus/>**

You are also encouraged to submit new data, so the list keeps getting better; keeping us all up-to-date on all cancellations.

## Feeling Trapped!

### Hustler 5-BTV

We all well know that the Corona Virus of 2020 has certainly altered our lives, our finances, our health, our social postures, our work schedules and perhaps even our hobby time. Hopefully, our portfolios remain optimistically healthy, our personal health remains unaffected and that we are finding more time for amateur radio. I am and I'll share a recent story.

The story begins now three years ago at the Dayton Hamvention (the first in Xenia) when, among other goodies, I bought a New-Tronics Hustler 5-BTV. This antenna was intended to replace a Cushcraft R-7 that had ultimately succumbed to long-term ultraviolet damage and water entry to the balun box (that final kilowatt use must have created quite the light show...arc!). The R-7 was a bit gangly and really cried out for guying...which I never did. That's the back story.

Now to the 5-BTV. As most of you know, this is a 5 band (10, 15, 20, 40 and 80) meter trapped vertical that can be ground mounted or elevated. I chose ground mounting on a five foot (3' in the ground and 2' above grade) 2" galvanized pipe (top capped). The antenna is mounted on the side of our home just in front of a conifer tree (not ideal) as revealed in the picture but was the only "approved" location. Parenthetically, mounting the antenna alongside of - or in close proximity - to our home would be less than ideal because

that house elevation is aluminum sided. Supplementing the antenna is a DX Engineering radial plate at the base of the mounting pipe (mast) and a DX Engineering tilt-over mount that facilitates assembly and tuning. This location limits uniform radial distribution so I have about forty various length radials that are largely deployed in two polar directions (north and south). See the picture. And, after returning from the 2017 Hamvention, I quickly installed the mounting pipe, radials and feed line.



Following the instructions (of so I thought) I tuned the antenna using a tape measure, wrench and an MFJ-259 antenna analyzer. Of course, we know that real men and real "hams" don't really read the instructions. The message here is to read and fully understand the instructions. Let me explain. The traps used on this antenna are LC traps with the "L" portion supplied by wound coils (for 10, 15 and 20 meters). The 80 meter coil is an add-on coil installed at the antenna top. The "C" portion is accomplished with the surrounding (and protective) cans that are hose clamped at the trap base and that slip into PVC caps that insulate and seal against water entry, the upper portion of the trap. If one were to actually read the instructions the reader would be cautioned in bold print to not adjust the clamp at the trap base when tuning the antenna.

Unfettered by instructions, I proceeded to "tune" my antenna by adjusting any and all of the clamps to achieve the best VSWR readings that

I could attain. By this time, you likely suspect that I really didn't achieve satisfactory VSWR values or antenna performance. Two years passed and here we are struggling with the Virus. So what was Fred to do?

First, I visited the New-Tronics website and secured the latest version of the instructions (which, to my dismay and private but now public embarrassment, remained unchanged). Now, using the Rig Expert AA-230 Zoom analyzer and



my "new" instructions, I proceeded with emboldened vigor to tune the antenna but with disappointing results. What to do? Go directly to the source I reasoned. My call to New-Tronics was delightfully greeted by Candie who then directly connected me with their technician, Mike. Mike, it turns out, is both a very patient and valued resource who explained how to tune the traps and of course, the larger antenna. By the way, for those hams who actually read instructions, the New-Tronics website also has a

page explaining the trap tuning procedure (which, when read with care) is really helpful).

Cutting to the chase as they say, tuning the traps is really the key to antenna performance as you would imagine. Tuning the traps is not a, pardon the pun, a "ham-handed" effort. The LC trap relationship is very delicate and adjustment of the trap cans requires very small (almost infinitesimal) movements of the trap clamp and can. The process starts with the 10 meter trap, proceeding to the 15 meter trap and then the 20 meter trap. Proper tuning of each successive trap is critical to overall antenna performance. The 80 meter trap is really adjusted by cutting the top end whip to the desired frequency (I like 3885 for AM operation).

Having just completed finessing the antenna traps, I am absolutely delighted with the VSWR curves, I am hearing band activity that I suspect I could not have previously heard and this may well be my go to antenna for 15 meters. Of course, the "on the air" performance will be the final and best test of performance. However, the reports of this antennas performance will have to wait for another Newsletter or our next Chapter meeting. Meanwhile, anyone of you with a Hustler 4-BTV, 5-BTV or 6-BTCw ho doesn't care to read the instructions and would like some "experienced" help in tuning your Hustler antenna, I stand at the ready to help. Stay safe and enjoy your family and amateur radio. Best

73,

**Fred Freer, K8IG**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>19</b> <b>April</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:15 p.m. ARES 80m OSSB 8 p.m. OHDN	<b>22</b> 8:30 p.m. Skywarn Net 146.76/R	<b>23</b> 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ARES NVIS Day (from home)
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:15 p.m. ARES 80m OSSB 8 p.m. OHDN 7:30p.m. LEARA Virtual meeting	<b>29</b> 8:30 p.m. Skywarn Net 146.76/R	<b>30</b> 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>May</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:15 p.m. ARES 80m OSSB 8 p.m. OHDN	<b>6</b> 8:30 p.m. Skywarn Net 146.76/R	<b>7</b> 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:15 p.m. ARES 80m OSSB 8 p.m. OHDN	<b>13</b> 8:30 p.m. Skywarn Net 146.76/R	<b>14</b> 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:15 p.m. ARES 80m OSSB 8 p.m. OHDN	<b>20</b> 8:30 p.m. Skywarn Net 146.76/R	<b>21</b> 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>

## Bylaw Updates

### ATTENTION all LEARA members:

At the last Board meeting (March), the undersigned was directed to make the following modifications to the appropriate LEARA Bylaws and SOP:

### Bylaws:

#### ARTICLE III - ELECTION OF TRUSTEES & VACANCIES

Section 1. The President shall, not later than the ~~April meeting of members each year~~ *date/time specified in the most current SOP*, appoint both a Nomination and Election Committee. The Nomination Committee shall be responsible for receiving, processing, and/or making nominations, and seeking out

qualified candidates for Trustee and persuading them to accept nomination. All incumbent Trustees shall be automatically nominated when their terms expire unless they withdraw their names. To be eligible for nomination, an individual shall have paid dues in accordance with Article I for the 12 months immediately preceding his or her nomination. A candidate for Trustee may be nominated by two or more members in good standing. Nominations shall be in writing or electronic email, and shall be delivered to the Nomination Committee not later than the regular August meeting of members, together with a statement by the candidate that he or she will serve as Trustee if elected. The Nomination Committee shall publish a list of

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nominees not later than the regular September meeting of members.

## Elections SOP:

### 1. Election Committee:

**A. Committee Chairperson:** Not later than the ~~April Membership~~ *May Trustees'* meeting, the President shall (according to the bylaws) appoint an Election Committee Chairperson.

The reason for the change is to allow appropriate latitude to the Board for the appointment of the nominating/election committee(s). In the past, it has become necessary to extend the date each year. Modern technology no longer requires such long lead time.

This action will be carried out in accordance with current procedures. The SOP only needs approval by the Board (already done). The Bylaws change needs membership approvals; this message serve as a reading of the proposal. The election will take place at the next membership meeting, which may be done by mail.

Anyone having comment about this should contact a Board member to allow proper handling.

73,

**Mary, W8AZO**

# WIN THIS HONDA 2200 WATT GENERATOR!

With 12V DC Output!



**Tickets  
\$20**



(valued at \$1050)

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association in Cleveland, Ohio is raffling off a Honda EU2200i generator to raise funds for amateur radio repeater expansion and maintenance costs for equipment used in the region by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from any LEARA Trustee, at any LEARA meeting, or can be purchased online via PayPal. For more information, raffle rules, and to purchase tickets see

[leara.org/raffle](http://leara.org/raffle)

No more than 500 tickets shall be sold and the drawing will be held so long as fifty-five tickets are sold.

## COVID-19 Net Now Running Wednesdays on 40 Meters

04/20/2020

from:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/covid-19-net-now-running-wednesdays-on-40-meters>

The Medical Net, a special COVID-19 net, is running Wednesdays, 0130 UTC, on 7.222 MHz. The net deals with correct data on COVID-19 epidemiology care, care issues, and more. Net control will be Dr. Harry Przekop, WB9EDP, a past president of the Medical Amateur Radio Council Organization (MARCO) and now a director at large.

Przekop is a specialist in infectious diseases and biomedical physics and is board-certified as an expert in HIV care.

Participants do not need to be physicians or medical providers to check in, ask questions, and otherwise take part, but no diagnoses can be rendered. The regular MARCO Grand Rounds Net is held on Sundays, 1500 UTC, on 14.342 MHz.

## Riddle Section

### Sudoku

Puzzle 1 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.52)

				5		4		
		4		2	8	6		9
9	5		7	4				
4					7		2	
	7						9	
	2		9					1
				9	3		7	5
2		8	1	7		9		
		7		8				

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## LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than **50 YEARS** of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969

### VOICE REPEATERS:

<b>146.76/R-</b>	• Highland Hills	(Requires 110.9 Hz tone, CTCSS)
<b>146.88/R- IRLP</b>	• Lakewood	(Requires 110.9 Hz tone, CTCSS) IRLP Node 4282
<b>224.90/R-</b>	• Lakewood	(141.3 Hz tone, CTCSS)
<b>444.40/R+</b>	• Macedonia	(Requires 131.8 Hz tone, CTCSS)
<b>444.70/R+</b>	• Lakewood <b>System Fusion</b> Digital Repeater	

### INTERNET:

- [www.leara.org](http://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 call sign in the body.  
Those who subscribe via e-mail will not receive a paper copy of the newsletter.