



The Spirit of '76 and '88



September Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2024
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



Meshtastic® is a project that enables you to use inexpensive LoRa radios as a long range off-grid communication platform in areas without existing or reliable communications infrastructure. This project is 100% community driven and open source!

Features

- Long range (254km record by kboxlabs)
- No phone required for mesh communication
- Decentralized communication - no dedicated router required
- Encrypted communication
- Excellent battery life
- Send and receive text messages between members of the mesh
- Optional GPS based location features
- And more!

<https://meshtastic.org>

LEARA Monthly Meeting

Meshtastic - Mesh Network

Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G

Das Schnitzel Haus

5728 Pearl Rd, Parma, Ohio 44129

<https://schnitzelhaus.dshrestaurant.com/>

September 24, 6:30 p.m.



Click or scan QR code to RSVP

The Prez Says

by Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Our August meeting was at **The Firehouse Grille & Pub in Willoughby Hills** with our own **Jeff Garvas, N8YNR**, telling us about **Monitoring Trunked Radio Systems**. As usual, the presentation contained way more information than can be readily absorbed in one viewing. I think that is the reason his



... continue on page 2

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| NEWSLETTER | |
| <p><i>The Spirit of '76 & '88</i> 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> | |

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Prez cont.

presentations are always well attended. People come back to try to get the information they missed in previous viewings and also to be updated on the latest equipment and technology.

For the September meeting our radio officer and tech guru, **Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G**, will be telling us about **Meshtastic**. From Meshtastic.org, "Meshtastic® is a project that enables you to use inexpensive LoRa radios as a long range off-grid communication platform in areas without existing or reliable communications infrastructure." Just how far can this cover? What is a LoRa radio? How can one access the network with a cell phone or computer? You'll have to come out the meeting to get these questions answered and learn more about this interesting technology.

For this meeting we will be trying out a new to LEARA restaurant, **Das Schnitzel Haus, 5728 Pearl Rd, Parma, Ohio 44129**. We will be ordering off the menu (<https://schnitzelhaus.dshrestaurant.com/parma-parma-das-schnitzel-haus-food-menu>)

Because we are ordering off the menu, reservations are not strictly required, but are appreciated so we can let the restaurant know how many places to set. You may make your reservation on the website, <https://leara.org/dinner-reservation/> or by calling **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at (440) 248-0031**. Come out for the food, the camaraderie, and a great program.

As always, if you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact Eric Jessen, N8AUC, or me. Contact info is in the column to the left.

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, 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. Go to [https://www.leara.org/files/ARRL via LEARA Appl Instructions.pdf](https://www.leara.org/files/ARRL%20via%20LEARA%20Appl%20Instructions.pdf) and follow the instructions therein.

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 or, if situation requires, in a virtual conference meeting online. 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 or in a virtual conference room online.

Contact a trustee or check the website at www.leara.org for details.

Prez cont.

Off-Topic: Sara and I don't go to see very many movies but a couple of weekends ago we did go see "**Reagan**". As people of an age that we lived through much of the time period depicted, we found the history to be very accurate, at least as accurate as one could expect from a movie that compresses 70 years into 2 hours 15 minutes. The reaction of the audience was amazing. After we saw the movie, I stumbled on a web page of movie reviews. The professional reviewers gave "Reagan" an 18% positive rating while people who were polled leaving the theatres gave it a 98% positive rating. We really enjoyed it and recommend catching it while it is still in theatres.

River Run 2024 Experience: Despite our best intentions to get out and participate in more public service this year, that really didn't happen. But Sara and I did make it out to River Run. This is a fun event that involves walkers and runners in a half marathon starting in the area of Wallace Lake and traveling north through the Rocky River Reservation of the MetroPark to the Memorial Fields ball diamonds near the north end of the park. Hams are positioned along the route to help with traffic control, be extra eyes for the welfare of the participants, and report shortages at water stops. Hams also track the first and last runners along the course, report unauthorized vehicles on the course, and provide SAG support.

This year we were stationed at the bottom of Stinchcomb hill to prevent unauthorized cars from entering the course. I got to try out some new blinky lights on my car and found a problem with some old ones. The old ones are Whelen dash strobes (real strobe bulbs, not LEDs) that I've never run for more than a few minutes at a time. It turns out that after half an hour they get pretty warm and one got to the "smells like overheated electronics and hot plastic" stage. However, I have a newer Whelen LED light that I swapped in. And, the new mini roof LED light bar that I recently bought at a sale price on Amazon exceeded expectations.

Not only does the public service event give us an opportunity to use our hobby, it provides us an opportunity to test and exercise our equipment and gain experience in preparation for real SHTF emergencies.

The 50th Annual Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show is Sunday, September 22, 2024 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., Berea, OH 44017 from 8:00 A.M. to 12 Noon. This was the very first hamfest I ever attended. That was in the late 1980s and before I was licensed. Now, I've been to Dayton and Mansfield and a handful of others. Admittedly there is no way it can compete with Dayton, but I find it to be a good size. It is big enough to draw a wide range of vendors from a large area and yet small enough to see most of it in half a day. The Cleveland Hamfest remains my personal favorite. As time goes on, I find that I need less stuff, but enjoy the face QSOs with acquaintances infrequently seen. I hope to see you there.

Foxhunting: The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) has been running monthly hidden transmitter hunts in the MetroParks and western suburbs. They would like to expand them and get more hunters from adjoining areas. I'd like to hear from you as to what it would take to get you to come out and participate. If you are interested, contact me. Contact info is on the second page.

Until next month, talk on the radio and use the repeaters. Check into one of the many nets available on the LEARA repeaters. Join us on the air, online, or in person. If you don't feel safe meeting in person, we understand. But, we really want to see or at least hear from you, even if it is only by radio or Zoom.



LEARA "On the Air"

Club Net Information
by Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE

The **Thursday Club Net** is held 8 p.m. on our 146.760 (or 146.880 backup) MHz (-600 kHz offset, PL 110.9) repeater. All nets will be

held on this repeater. Please use it and notify any trustee of any troubles or issues.

| August 2024 Checkins 28 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| K2WJS | BILL | KE8RGC | John | N8UPZ | Bill |
| K8EHP | Mike | KE8ZZ | Ed | N8WIN | Tom |
| K8RYK | Rich | KF8BNF | Mike | W8IE | Ed |
| KA8JOY | Robert | KM8V | Jon | W8JMI | Bryan |
| K8BVBR | Leone | KN4THP | Aiden | W8PKT | William |
| K8BVXE | Carl | N8ACP | Chris | W8AWD | Bob |
| KC8FQV | Mark | N8AHS | Fred | W8ZHN | Jim |
| KC8MRC | Bob | N8AUC | Eric | W8JIX | David |
| KD8AJZ | Rich | N8IYA | Steve | | |
| KD8FTS | Eddie | N8QMK | Mike | | |

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

The tentative scheduled NCOs for the next Nets are:
Please check the website for current assignments.
--- click ---

| Net Control Schedule | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--|
| 09/19/24 | Eric | N8AUC | |
| 09/26/24 | Carl | K8BVXE | |
| 10/03/24 | Jim | W8ZHN | |
| 10/10/24 | Carl | K8BVXE | |
| 10/17/24 | Ed | W8IE | |
| 10/24/24 | Jim | W8ZHN | |
| 10/31/24 | Carl | K8BVXE | |
| 11/07/24 | Eric | N8AUC | |
| 11/14/24 | Steve | K8SAS | |

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| NCOs | K8SAS * | Steve | N8AUC | Eric |
| | K8BVXE | Carl | W8IE | Ed |
| | KM8V* | Jon | W8ZJN | Jim |

*Short time leave **Long term leave

The Wednesday Night Skywarn Practice Net

The Skywarn season runs from April thru September. Practice nets are held Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on the 146.76 repeater. With a simplex net to follow on 146.745. Should the National Weather Service issue a severe storm warning for Cuyahoga County, a weather net will be brought up on the 146.76 repeater.

Visit www.ccskywarn.org for more information and training sessions.

An On-Line Storm Spotter training video from the NWS is available at

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSCleveland/videos/858879174941020/>

ARES

ARES nets and meetings are held every Tuesday (Except the third Tuesday of the Month) at 8PM on 145.410 (+)110.9. A simplex net will be held afterwards. ARES meetings are in the meeting room at the Helwig Whistle Stop 599 West Bagley Rd. Berea, OH. at 7PM the third Tuesday of each month. More info about ARES can be found at www.n8esg.org/ares.

Sunshine

Please contact Robert Wright (ke8ceo@leara.org) with information.

- Ron Hollas K8RJH, is doing better and on the way to a rehab facility, then home. Please feel free to email him Get well wishes or anything else to cheer him up. He enjoys it when Ester reads them to him. ron@hollas.co

**LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES**

September 14th, 2024
held virtually in a Zoom Video Conference
(Subject to Revision)

Attendance:

Bryan Torok, N8OOF; Eric Jessen, N8AUC;
Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; Marv Grossman,
W8AZO; Jon Anhold, KM8V; Dave
Andrzejewski, AD8G;

Members:

Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB

Excused:

Robert Wright, KE8CEO; Carl Gedeon,
KB8VXE; Jeff Garvas, N8YNR

1. Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at
9:10 A.M. Meeting minutes being taken by
Bryan Torok, N8OOF.

2. Last board meeting minutes

Motion to accept, Eric Jessen, N8AUC; second
Marv Grossman, W8AZO. Motion carried
without objection.

3. Treasurer's Report

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS, no relevant recent
changes in the checking account.

4. Membership Report

by Marv Grossman, W8AZO; 116 current
with 29 not renewed from last year

5. Venue Chair's Report / Discussion

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS (all are tentative
pending verification of facilities and/or
confirmation from venues): September, Das
Schnitzel Haus; October, Firehouse Grille;
November, Teamz.

6. Upcoming Programs:

by Eric Jessen, N8AUC; September will be
Meshtastic presented by Dave Andrzejewski,
AD8G. October is open. November is the
holiday meeting.

7. Net Report:

Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE, via email: Mike
Coleman AB8UM requested to be taken off
the net control rotation due to a time conflict
on Thursday evenings. Steve Spisak K8SAS
will be returning to the rotation at the end
of October. Currently 6 active and 1
temporary out of service controllers. If you
know of anyone who would be interested in
helping out with the Thursday night Club
net, please have them contact me or give me
their information and I will call them.

8. Sunshine

Robert Wright, KE8CEO reported via email
he sent out two cards. One was for Ron
Hollas K8RJH, and Chuck Mehozonek
K8CVM. K8RJH doing better and on the
way to a rehab facility, then home. K8CVM
and family had to put one of their dogs to
sleep.

9. Technical Committee Report:

By Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G, all repeaters
operating. 146.760 power supply and voter
replacement still in progress. Still waiting on
CWRU to complete renovations and tower
installation so we can reactivate that 146.760
input. The new leara.org website is up.
Permanent Zoom meeting links banner still
to come. Dave needs a list of email addresses
for @leara.org. Now that public service
season is nearly over, Dave expects to have
more time to address ongoing projects.

10. Nomination/Election Committee Report:

Robert Wright, KE8CEO, has not found any
new nominees. Trustees who were elected
in 2021 and are up for reelection: Marv
Grossman, W8AZO; Bryan Torok, N8OOF;

and Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G. All will automatically be re-nominated. Nominations close at the end of the September meeting.

11. Old Business:

Nothing new at this time.

12. New Business:

Jeff Garvas, N8YNR reported via email that he had received an offer to host the 444.400 repeater at a location in Twinsburg about 2 miles east/southeast of the current location and at a similar altitude. The concensus is

that LEARA should move forward with this. Dave, AD8G, volunteered to get the repeater from Jeff and go over the RF sections and controller in preparation for the new site.

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Eric Jessen, N8AUC, and seconded by Marv Grossman, W8AZO, motion carried at 1014 hours EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Torok, N8OOF

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 22 Cleveland Hamfest | 23 | 24 6:30 p.m. LEARA meeting | 25 | 26 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 27 September | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 1 October | 2 | 3 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 4 | 5 ACS Strides Walk |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 6:30 p.m. LEARA meeting | 30 Lorain County Pumpkin Patrol | 31 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R Lorain County Pumpkin Patrol | 1 Lorain County Pumpkin Patrol | 2 Lorain County Pumpkin Patrol |
| 3 November | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R | 8 | 9 |

Check the Event Support Group Website for more event details
 >>> <https://n8esg.org/calendar/> <<<

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from www.arrl.org

09/22/2024 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <https://www.hac.org>

[Learn More](#)

10/27/2024 - [2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS](#)

Location: N. Canton, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.w8np.net>

[Learn More](#)

David J. Goodman, WA8UIT, SK Estate Sale

I will do the sale once more. Had a few members come to the first sale! Thanks.

Where: 31870 Hiram Trail, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

When: Sunday, 10/6/2024, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Helen, KC8IKK

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

10/05/2024 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

10/14/2024 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library

Time: 6:30 PM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

11/02/2024 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

Sponsor: Northern Ohio

Amateur Radio Society

Location: Fairview Park Library

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

[Learn More](#)

11/10/2024 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS

Location: Old Elmwood

Recreation Center

Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

11/17/2024 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library

Time: 1:30 PM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

National Preparedness Month: Have a Go Kit

09/06/2024 from: <https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-have-a-go-kit>

September is National Preparedness Month, and ARRL is working to help radio amateurs have a plan for family resilience. Many hams enjoy public service as part of their operating. Being ready to activate for a served agency through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) involves not only being licensed and trained, but also prepared and equipped.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, suggests that hams and their families have a “go-bag”. He says there are a few things to consider: “You need to be able to function while activated, so that means you need a kit for your needs and a kit for your radio needs. If your family is impacted by the situation, they also need to have some gear at the ready.”

On the ARRL website, there’s an Emergency Prep Kit Checklist. It lists the common items such as food and water for several days, a first aid kit, medications, chargers for your devices and other useful items.

Having a kit for your radio is useful as well. “Go kits will vary based on function and need for the field,” said Johnston. “Most kits should include a dual band HT and/or mobile radio with antenna,

a power supply and all necessary cables and connectors. Every kit should include note pad or paper of some type as well as pens or pencils. You should have a power source and power cables. If you are working HF then you will need an HF radio and antenna, and if you want digital capabilities, then a computer with software preloaded will be desired.”

Other things you may want will include tape and tools, spare batteries, headphones, flashlights of some sort, cell phone chargers, and a multimeter. Other items that won’t fit in a bag but may be needed include a generator, a working surface like a small folding table, a chair, and some type of shelter.



LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than 50 YEARS of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969

VOICE REPEATERS:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 146.76/R- | • Highland Hills | (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) |
| 146.88/R- | • Lakewood | (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) |
| 224.90/R- | • Lakewood | (Requires 141.3 Hz tone) |
| 444.40/R+ | • Macedonia | (Requires 131.8 Hz tone) (Offline) |
| 444.70/R+ | • Lakewood | Digital Only (mmdvm: Fusion, DMR, D-Star & P25) |
| | | (Requires 131.8 Hz tone) |

INTERNET: www.leara.org