



The Spirit of '76 and '88



November Newsletter of the
Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

2025

Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



LEARA Meeting Holiday Meeting

November 25.
6:30 p.m.

Teamz Restaurant & Bar
6611 Eastland Rd, Middleburg
Heights, OH 44130

Click or scan
QR code to RSVP



The Prez Says by Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Trustees Election:

Because the Trustee election was delayed by one month, we will have a short business meeting at the November Meeting to conduct the final vote tally and certify the results. Here is the voting process for 2025:



OFFICERS and TRUSTEES	
Bryan Torok President	N8OOF btorok@sbcglobal.net
Eric Jessen VP, License Trustee	N8AUC 440-554-3057
Eddie Stevens Treasurer	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
TRUSTEES	
Marv Grossman Membership	W8AZO 440-248-0031
Robert Wright, II Vice President	KE8CEO 216-502-1552
Eddie Stevens Venue	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
Jeff Garvas Public Information	N8YNR 216-496-3928
Carl Gedeon Trustee	KB8VXE kb8vxe@arrl.net
Jon Anhold Trustee	KM8V km8v@arrl.net
Dave Andrzejewski Trustee	AD8G 440-220-2064
TRUSTEES EMERITI	
Al Amster	W8TTY (SK)
Don Raith	N8DJG (SK)
Fred Collins	W8ADW(SK)
John Radney	KC8FOC(SK)
Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)
Dave Foran	WB8APD (SK)
Bob Winston	W2THU
POINTS OF CONTACT	
Robert Wright, II "Sunshine"	KE8CEO 216-502-1552
Bryan Torok Radio Officer	N8OOF btorok@sbcglobal.net
Dave Andrzejewski Radio Officer	AD8G 440-220-2064
NEWSLETTER	
<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. Editor: Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB E-mail: editor@leara.org Proofreading: TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR	

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Those who receive the newsletter notifications via email will receive voting instructions via email. If those members have not received electronic voting instructions on or before **November 18, 2025**, contact me at btorok@sbcglobal.net. Those who do not have email and receive a paper newsletter should receive a paper ballot on or before **November 18, 2025**. Those expecting a paper ballot who do not receive it should contact Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at (440) 248-0031.

The October Meeting presentation was on APRS, by Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G. As usual, Dave gave an interesting and informative presentation. I came away inspired to set up a packet station from my house and possibly put one in my car.

The November Meeting will be LEARA's **Annual Holiday Social** meeting at **Teamz Restaurant & Bar**, 6611 Eastland Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. We have been there several times. Teamz has a spacious banquet room with high ceilings, very good food at reasonable prices, and excellent service.

Door Prizes: This year, the Trustees have decided to depart from playing Bingo as in previous years. We decided to have a White Elephant Gift Exchange (WEGE). I can hear many of you asking, "What is a WEGE?" It is a party game where each person brings a wrapped, often humorous or impractical, gift and participants take turns opening a new gift or stealing one that has already been opened. There is a full explanation on [page 5](#) in this newsletter.

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.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month (except December) 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 6:30 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.

Participation in the WEGE is optional, but only those who bring a gift will participate in the exchange.

Following the WEGE, we will conduct a **drawing for a Yaesu FT-4XR HT**. There will also be a drawing for a **LEARA Buck** (free dinner) and the usual **50-50 drawing**.

Reservations: 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 and camaraderie.

Future Meetings: Coming in 2026, we will welcome guest speaker **Tom Sly, WB8LCD**, ARRL Ohio Section Manager, program TBD, but it will NOT be ARRL night. Also on deck is **Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL** (member now residing in AZ), who will present a program via Zoom on the weekly #APRSTHURSDAY worldwide APRS net. This net regularly has 700 participants. We are working out whether to do this as Zoom only or hybrid in-person and Zoom. Either way, it will be a new and engaging program.

As always, if you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact **Eric Jessen, N8AUC**, or me. Contact info is on page 2 in the left column.

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 for a Saturday morning Trustees meeting. Join us on the air, online, or in person. We really want to see or at least hear from you, even if it is only by radio or Zoom.

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

11/09/2025 | [Independence OH](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS

Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center

Time: 12:00 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

11/09/2025 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS

Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center

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

[Learn More](#)

11/16/2025 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Public Library

Time: 1:30 PM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

12/06/2025 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

01/03/2026 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

Sponsor: Northern Ohio

Amateur Radio Society

Location: Fairview Park Library

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

[Learn More](#)



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.

October 2025 Check-Ins					
K2WJS	BILL	KF8AZD	Mike	N18M	John
K8EHP	Mike	KF8DGD	Bill	W8HRF	Josh
KB8VXE	Carl	KKF8DTA	Jeff	W8IE	Ed
KC8FQV	Mark	N8AHS	Fred	W8JMI	Bryan
KC8MRC	Bob	N8AUC	Eric	WA8ZHN	Jim
KC8VKA	Frank	N8AZE	Joel		
KE8CED	Robert	N8IYA	Steven		

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

There will be no nets on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years evenings. The Club newsletter will be absent in December so for November, December and January, the tentative scheduled NCOs are:

The tentative scheduled NCOs for the next Nets are:

Please check the website for current assignments.

--- click ---

Net Control Schedule		
11/20/25	Carl	KB8VXE
11/27/25	No Net	
12/04/25	Robert	KE8CED
12/11/25	Eric	N8AUC
12/18/25	Carl	KB8VXE
12/25/25	No Net	
01/01/26	No Net	
01/08/26	Jim	WA8ZHN
01/15/26	Carl	KB8VXE
01/22/26	Ed	W8IE
01/29/26	Robert	KE8CED
02/05/26	Eric	N8AUC
02/12/26	Jim	WA8ZHN
02/19/26	Carl	KB8VXE
02/26/26	Ed	W8IE

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 146.475. 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 <https://n8esg.org/skywarn/> for more information and training sessions.

Information about Cleveland Weather operations can be found at <https://wx8cle.org/>

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

Bill Downie N8UPZ became a Silent Key August 7, 2025. He was a long time member of LEARA. We will miss him on our nets.

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

NCOs

KB8VXE	Carl	W8IE	Ed
KM8V*	Jon	WA8ZJN	Jim
N8AUC	Eric	KE8CED	Robert

*Short time leave **Long term leave

LEARA HOLIDAY PARTY TO HAVE A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

In the vein of trying something different, the LEARA Trustees have decided have a white elephant gift exchange (WEGE) at the November Holiday Party instead of playing BINGO for prizes.

Following the WEGE, we will conduct a **drawing for a Yaesu FT-4XR HT**. There will also be a drawing for a **LEARA Buck** (free dinner) and the **50-50 drawing**.

The below is heavily cribbed from Google AI.

A white elephant gift exchange is a party game where each person brings a wrapped, often humorous or impractical, gift and participants take turns opening a new gift or stealing one that has already been opened. The game is played by having each person draw a number, and the person with number one starts by opening a gift. Play continues with each number holder choosing a new gift or stealing an opened one, with stolen gifts being replaced immediately from the pile. The exchange is a popular way to give gag gifts and have fun, with a set price limit often used to keep costs down.

Participation in the WEGE is optional, but only those who bring a gift will participate in the exchange.

How to play

- **Price Limit:** For this event the price limit will be \$20.
- **Bring a gift:** Each person brings one wrapped, anonymous gift that fits the price limit.
- **Draw numbers:** Participants draw a number to determine the order of play.
- **Take turns:**
 - The person with number one chooses and unwraps a gift.
 - The person with number two can either choose a new gift from the pile or steal the gift from person one.
 - If a gift is stolen, the person who lost their gift chooses another one. This continues until all numbers have had their turn.
- **Final turn:** Person one gets a final turn to keep their original gift or steal one of the opened presents.

Gift ideas

Humorous: Silly or funny items that are amusing but not necessarily practical, like a novelty mug or a funny t-shirt.

Practical: Useful but potentially unexciting items, such as a waffle maker, hand cream, or a Bluetooth speaker.

DIY: A handmade gift can be a creative and fun option, but be sure it fits the theme or price limit if one is set.

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

Nov. 8th, 2025
held virtually in a Zoom Video Conference
(Subject to Revision)

Attendance:

Bryan Torok, N8OOF; Eric Jessen, N8AUC;
Marv Grossman, W8AZO; Robert Wright,
KE8CEO; Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE; Jon Anhold,
KM8V

Members:

Carsten Lohrman, KD8WBB; Ed Rivers, W8IE;
Jim Mac Millan, WA8ZHN

Excused:

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS

Absent:

Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G; Jeff Garvas,
N8YNR

1. Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at
0910 EST. Recognized and thanked Hamfest
Association of Cleveland for the use of Zoom.

2. Previous Trustee Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept, Eric Jessen, N8AUC. Seconded
by Robert Wright, KE8CEO. Motion carried
without objection.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Not available.

4. Membership Report:

Marv Grossman, W8AZO: 112 current, plus
4 new members from the Cleveland Hamfest.

5. Venue Chair's Report:

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS, previously reported

via email and telephone that he made a
reservation at Teamz for November.

6. Upcoming Programs:

Eric Jessen, N8AUC; November will be the
election of Trustees and the Holiday meeting.
Discussion of prizes and games for the Holiday
meeting. Motion made by Eric Jessen, N8AUC;
seconded by Robert Wright, KE8CEO; to
conduct a "White Elephant Gift Exchange"
(WEGE). Motion carried without objection.
Motion made by Eric Jessen, N8AUC; seconded
by Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE to conduct a
drawing for a Yaesu FT-4XR HT following
the WEGE. Eric ordered the HT from DX
Engineering. The drawing for a LEARA Buck
(free dinner) and the 50-50 drawing will be
conducted as usual.

January or February, 2026, Tom Sly,
WB8LCD, ARRL Ohio Section Manager,
program TBD. Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL,
(member now residing in AZ) contacted us
via the website to offer do a program via
Zoom on the weekly #APRSTHURSDAY
worldwide APRS net. Discussion was had as
to whether to do this as Zoom only or hybrid
in-person and Zoom. Eric will contact Mike
to set it up, possibly for January or February.

7. Net Report:

Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE, nets will not be held
on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

8. Sunshine

Robert Wright, KE8CEO, nothing to report.
Eric Jessen, N8AUC, reported at the October
meeting that prior to Bill Downie, N8UPZ,
passing away in August, he donated his ham
gear to LEARA. Eric has custody of said gear.
Eric will sell the gear and give the proceeds
to the LEARA treasury.

9. Technical Committee Report:

Ed Rivers, W8IE, is appointed to the Technical
Committee by the President. Ed resides in
Lakewood close to the repeater site.

Arrangements will be made to add Ed to the access list and get him keys for the cabinets.

Eric, and Marv appointed as the Election Committee.

10. Nominations and Elections:

The following incumbents were elected in 2022 and up for reelection: Jeff Garvas, N8YNR; Robert Wright, KE8CEO; Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE. Newly nominated: Jim Mac Millan, WA8ZHN; Ed Rivers, W8IE. Discussion over the use of VotingPlace.com and cost. Jon Anhold, KM8V, suggested using Google Forms (a free service) and demonstrated a simple ballot. Jon and Eric volunteered to conduct the election. Marv stated he will provide the database and handle the paper ballots. Jon,

11. Old Business:

None

12. New Business:

None

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Jon Anhold, KM8V, and seconded by Eric Jessen, N8AUC. Meeting adjourned at 1055 EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 November	24	25 6:30 p.m. LEARA HOLIDAY meeting	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30	1 December	2	3	4 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 New Year	2	3
4 January	5	6	7	8 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	23	24
25	26	27 6:30 p.m. LEARA meeting	28	29 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	30	31

Check the Event Support Group Website for more event details

>>> <https://n8esg.org/calendar/> <<<

Spontaneous Lithium Fires are Becoming Epidemic

from: <https://www.electronicdesign.com/technologies/power/article/55325801/spontaneous-lithium-fires-are-becoming-epidemic>

Fueled by thermal runaway, lithium-ion battery-based fires and disasters are more common than you think.

Lithium-based batteries seem to be in everything we own. From tiny wireless earbuds to cars to entire home battery backups, they're omnipresent. Big business, big industry, everything relies on them. Unfortunately, spontaneous lithium fires come along with that dependency. Lithium fires can ignite without warning and burn with intense heat, putting people, property, and the environment in harm's way. And it's happening more than you may realize.

In fact, incidents involving lithium-ion batteries have become shockingly common worldwide. According to the [United States government data](#), over 240 fires were reported across 64 waste and recycling facilities over seven years (2013-2020), all of which were caused by lithium batteries. These fires disrupted operations in 28 states across

all EPA regions, creating economic and environmental challenges.

Consumers have also witnessed a surge in lithium-related fires involving personal devices and micromobility products, such as e-bikes, e-scooters, and smartphones. Between 2017 and 2022, over 25,000 overheating or fire-related incidents were reported.

According to an NFPA summary of FDNY data, New York City has seen an uptick in these fires since 2022, experiencing over 800 caused by lithium-ion batteries. Those fires claimed 30 lives and injured 400+ people, a stark reminder of the fire's devastating effects.

According to QBE's analysis of UK fire-service data, the United Kingdom had a 93% increase in lithium-ion fires from 2022 to 2024, and e-bikes and scooters accounted for nearly a third of those incidents. Meanwhile, Western Australia firefighters attended three lithium battery fires per week in 2025, nearly double the number recorded in previous years...

Read more about here:

<https://www.electronicdesign.com/technologies/power/article/55325801/spontaneous-lithium-fires-are-becoming-epidemic>

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than 55 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