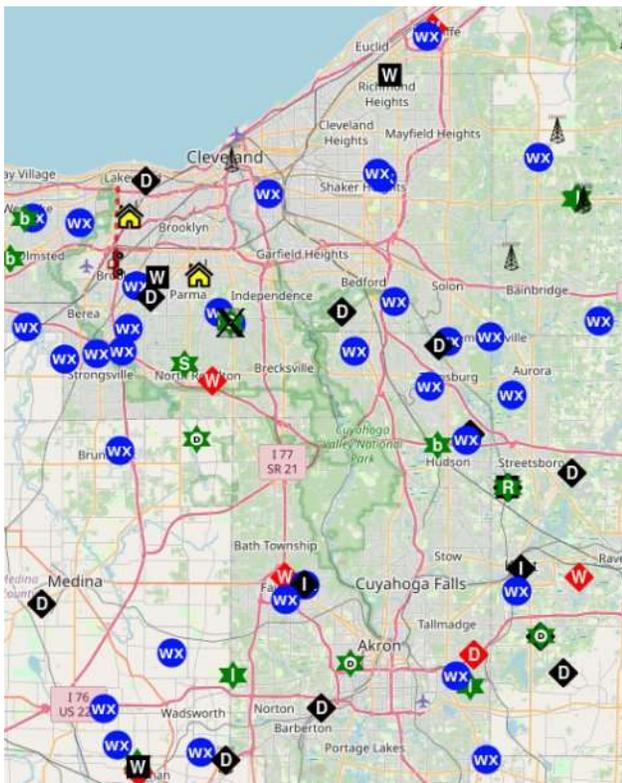




# The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the  
**February Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2026**  
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



**LEARA Monthly Meeting**  
**The weekly #APRSTHURSDAY**  
**worldwide APRS net**  
**Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL**  
**Teamz Restaurant & Bar**  
6611 Eastland Rd  
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130  
**February 24, 6:30 p.m.**



**Click or scan**  
**QR code to RSVP**

**The Prez Says**  
by Bryan Torok, N80OF

**NOTICE: The February meeting will be presented by both Zoom and In-Person. Details are below.**

Renew your membership: It's that time of the year again when we ask you to send in your dues. To those of you who have already done so, thank



### **Membership renewals!**

Please be aware that membership renewals are due!

If you are still missing out, you can find renewal information or pay directly on our website:

<https://leara.org/membership/renew/>

... continue on page 2

**Prez cont.**

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<b>Bryan Torok</b> President	<b>N8OOF</b> btorok@sbcglobal.net
<b>Eric Jessen</b> VP, License Trustee	<b>N8AUC</b> 440-554-3057
<b>Eddie Stevens</b> Treasurer	<b>KD8FTS</b> 440-668-7409
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<b>Eddie Stevens</b> Venue	<b>KD8FTS</b> 440-668-7409
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<b>Dave Andrzejewski</b> Trustee	<b>AD8G</b> 440-220-2064
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<b>Bob Winston</b>	<b>W2THU</b>
POINTS OF CONTACT	
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<b>Bryan Torok</b> Radio Officer	<b>N8OOF</b> btorok@sbcglobal.net
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NEWSLETTER	
<p><i>The Spirit of '76 &amp; '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><b>Editor:</b> Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB E-mail: editor@leara.org</p> <p><b>Proofreading:</b> TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR</p>	

v10/2025-01-01

you. To the rest of you, please take a moment and do it before you forget. The easiest way to do that is to go to our website, <https://leara.org/membership/renew/> and pay online using PayPal or your favorite credit card. You may also mail a check to LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, Ohio 44122-0823.

**The January Meeting** program was **"QRP Operation"** presented by **Tom Sly, WB8LCD**. Twelve intrepid souls braved the cold and snow to make to the meeting at **My Friends Restaurant**.

Tom gave a great introduction to operating with little power, typically 5 watts or less. He presented a table showing the relationship between transmitted power and received signal strength. Assuming 100 watts transmitted power resulted in an S9 received signal, reducing to 5 watts would only drop the received signal by about 2 S units, to around S7. If the received signal strength was S7, reducing to 5 watts would give an S5 strength which is still defined as a fairly good signal. He went on to show examples of older and newer commercial gear as well inexpensive homebrew gear built in small metal boxes. Tom teased that he has a Part 2. Maybe we will have that at a future meeting.

**The February Meeting** topic will be on **The weekly #APRSTHURSDAY worldwide APRS net** presented by **Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL**. #APRSTHURSDAY is a weekly worldwide net that Mike has facilitated for the last 4 years using APRS Messaging. The net routinely draws over 700 operators from all around the world, every week. Mike is going to tell us how it

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. Go to [https://www.leara.org/files/ARRL\\_via\\_LEARA\\_Appl\\_Instructions.pdf](https://www.leara.org/files/ARRL_via_LEARA_Appl_Instructions.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](http://www.leara.org) for details.

## Prez cont.

started, how it all works, and how to participate. There is also a Facebook Group titled APRSThursday with over 3,000 members. This sounds like a great presentation and one that we haven't seen before.

Since Mike is a LEARA member now residing in Arizona he will be coming to us via Zoom. We will send out the Zoom link in the days prior to the meeting and it will also be available at [www.LEARA.ORG](http://www.LEARA.ORG). The program will be both via **Zoom** and in-person at

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

Teamz has a new menu. You can check it out here:

<https://www.teamzsportsbar.com/menu.html>

**Reservations:** Because we will be 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:** 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.



Living the QRP Lifestyle!





## 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.

January 2026 Check-Ins 13				
AD8PQ	Ken	KB8VXE	Carl	N8AHS Fred
K2WJS	BILL	KC8FQV	Mark	W8IE Ed
K8ARP	Arp	KC8MRC	Bob	W8ZHN Jim
K8EHP	Mike	KE8CEO	Robert	
K8SAS	Steve	KF8DGD	Bill	

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			
02/19/26	Carl	KB8VXE	
02/26/26	Ed	W8IE	
03/05/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
03/12/26	Eric	N8AUC	
03/19/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
03/26/26	Carl	KB8VXE	
04/02/26	Ed	W8IE	
04/09/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
04/16/26	Eric	N8AUC	
04/23/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
04/30/26	Carl	KB8VXE	

NCOs	KB8VXE	Carl	W8IE	Ed
	KM8V*	Jon	W8ZJN	Jim
	N8AUC	Eric	KE8CEO	Robert

\*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 146.475. 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](http://www.n8esg.org/ares).

Note: The third Tuesday of the month March 17th, is St Patrick's Day. As there are many extra activities going on, the meeting will be held the following week on March 24th. A regular net will be held on St. Patrick's Day.

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## Sunshine

Please contact Robert Wright ([ke8ceo@leara.org](mailto:ke8ceo@leara.org)) with information.

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## Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

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

### 03/08/2026 - [Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Elyria, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

**Website:**

<https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/>

[Learn More](#)

### 04/11/2026 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:**

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

**Website:** <https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)



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<https://leara.org/membership/renew/>

## Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

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

### 03/07/2026 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

**Location:** Fairview Park Library

**Time:** 10:00 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

### 03/08/2026 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga ARS

**Location:** Old Elmwood Recreation Center

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

[Learn More](#)

### 03/26/2026 | [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](#)

### 04/04/2026 | [Kirtland OH 44094](#)

**Sponsor:** Lake County ARA

**Location:** Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

### 04/04/2026 | [Stow OH 44224](#)

**Sponsor:** PCARS (Portage County Amateur Radio Service)

**Location:** PCARS Clubsite

**Time:** 10:00 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

# Minimalist RTX QRP, QRPp and QRPx

*Meaning of the terms:*

- QRP:** power used less than or equal to 5 watt
- QRPp:** power used less than or equal to 1 watt
- QRPx:** power used less than or equal to 100 milliwatt
- QRPu:** power used less than or equal to 10 mW
- Microwatting:** power used less than or equal to mW

If it is possible to make connections in QRP (power of 5 watts or less) it is also possible to make them with 1 watt or less; this is the characteristic of QRPp. On the web you can find a lot of connection experiences made with 0.5 - 1 watt, often with self-built RTX. Very often simple wired antennas are used, and of course telegraphy (but there are also digital modes, which use communication protocols that allow transmission over thousands of kilometers with a few milliwatts). Of course, it is a great satisfaction to connect, for example, a station with a power of 700 watts and 9 element yagi antenna, with just 2 watts and a wired antenna! These connections are possible if the correspondent is patient, and especially if he does not require signals of the 9++ type.

Let's see why connections are possible even with little power, with a table expressing the signal level received from the correspondent starting from the transmitted power (~ means about, as the numbers have been rounded).

POWER	100 WATT	5 WATT	2 WATT	1 WATT	0.1 WATT
Received signal	9	7	6	5.5	4
Received signal	8	6	5	4.5	3
Received signal	7	5	4	3.5	2
Received signal	6	4	3	2.5	1
Received signal	5	3	2	1.5	0

The table means, for example, that if in a connection with 100 watts I make myself heard with signal 8, lowering the power to 1 watt, I can make myself heard with signal about 4.5, all other conditions being equal.

It is therefore evident that there are, band noise permitting, many possibilities to make connections both in QRP and with lower power.

From: [https://a28.veron.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Minimalist\\_QRP\\_Book\\_V5.3-1.pdf](https://a28.veron.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Minimalist_QRP_Book_V5.3-1.pdf)



From the presentation "QRP Operating" at the Leara meeting 28th January 2026, by Tom Sly, WB8LCD.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22 <b>February</b>	23	24 6:30 p.m. <b>LEARA meeting</b>	25	26 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	27	28
1 <b>March</b>	2	3	4	5 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	13	14
15	16	17	18 6 p.m. Skywarn Spotter Training	19 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	27	28
29	30	31 6:30 p.m. <b>LEARA meeting</b>	1 <b>April</b>	2 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	3	4

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



# PCARS - K8BF

*21st Annual*  
*"Freeze Your Acorns Off"*  
*(FYAO) Special Event Station*



*Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh  
at the Roy Smith Shelter House*

*When: Saturday - Feb. 21, 2026  
Set up: 9 am*



*Operating Time: 10 am - 3 pm EST*

We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8BF echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator). Yes, we'll be braving the cold weather of

North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

Uniform of the day: Aloha or Hawaiian Shirts

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



**QSL for Card and Certificate via QRZ.com address for K8BF**



Check PCARS out on the web at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)  
Questions? Contact Chuck, W8PT at [chuckw8pt@gmail.com](mailto:chuckw8pt@gmail.com)



## 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](http://www.leara.org)